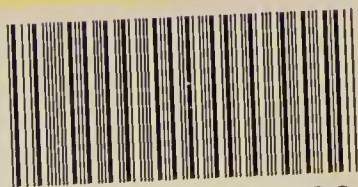




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# DOCUMENTS

OF THE

## U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

VOL. I.

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NUMBERS 1 to 60.

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1866.

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# DOCUMENTS

OF THE

United States Sanitary Commission.

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## VOL. I.

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9. Camp Inspection Return.—Questions.
10. Notification to Associate Members.  
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11. Names of Associate Members.  
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12. Names of Associate Members.  
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13. Address to the Public from Central Finance Com.  
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14. Directions to Army Surgeons on Field of Battle.  
(Subsequently published as Monograph B of Med. and Surg. Essays.)
15. Letter to Executive Financial Committee  
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16. Appeal of Executive Financial Committee.  
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17. Preliminary Survey of Camps near Washington.  
(July 9, 1861.)
- 17<sup>2</sup>. Rules for Preserving the Health of Soldiers.  
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18. No document of this number published.
19. Camp Inspection Return.—Questions.  
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20. Military Discipline.  
(Extracts from Minutes of the Commission, July 29, 1861.)
21. Resolutions.  
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22. Origin and Objects of the Sanitary Commission.  
(Aug. 13, 1861.)
23. Report on Hospitals in Washington and vicinity.  
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24. Objects to which the Funds of the Commission are applied.  
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- 24<sup>2</sup>. Instructions to Sanitary Inspectors.
25. Reprint of twelve Documents.  
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(Sept. 1, 1861.) Not reprinted.
26. Report of Preliminary Survey of U. S. Forces in Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.  
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27. Condition of the Troops and Work of the Sanitary Commission in the Mississippi Valley, during August, 1861.
28. Advice on Camps—British Crimean Report.  
(Dec. 1, 1856.)
29. Report concerning Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission to Sick Soldiers passing through Washington.  
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30. Report of Committee on the Examination of Officers.
31. Quinine as a Prophylactic.  
(Sept. 30, 1861.) (Subsequently published as Monograph D of Med. and Surg. Essays.)
32. Origin, Organization, and Working of the "Woman's Central Association of Relief," New York.  
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33. List of Associate Members.  
(March 15, 1862.) Not reprinted. Included in Document 74.
34. List of Associate Members.  
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35. Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission to Sick Soldiers passing through Washington. 1st and 2d. Reports.  
(Sept. 23, and Oct. 21, 1861.)
36. Quarterly Report on Condition of the Army and

Work of the Sanitary Commission in the Mississippi Valley.

(Nov. 30, 1861.)

37. Report of the Cleveland Branch. 40 pp.  
(Nov. 30, 1861.) Not reprinted as a Serial Document.
38. Camps and Hospitals in Cairo, Ill., and vicinity.  
(Oct. 31, 1861.)
39. Third Report, concerning Aid and Comfort given  
by the Sanitary Commission to Sick Soldiers  
passing through Washington.  
(March 21, 1862.)
40. Report of the General Secretary to the Secretary  
of War.  
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41. Reports on Hospitals at Grafton, Va., and Cum-  
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(March 10, 1862.)
42. Visit to Fort Donelson for the Relief of the  
Wounded.  
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43. Letter to the President of the United States.  
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44. Report of the Cincinnati Branch.  
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- 44<sup>a</sup>. Appeal for Funds.  
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45. Regulations of the N. Y. Agency and for its Hos-  
pital Transport Service on the Atlantic Coast.  
(July 15, 1862.)
46. Mortality and Sickness of the U. S. Volunteer  
Forces.  
(May 18, 1862.)  
Not reprinted. [The result of the Commission's investigations of this  
subject will be embodied in the final Report of the Statistical Dep't.]
47. Letter to the President of the United States.  
(Aug. 5, 1862.)

48. Appeal to the Public, with letters concerning Army Operations and the Relief Work of the Commission in Maryland.  
(Sept. 24, 1862.)
49. Provision for Disabled Soldiers—Letter to S. G. Perkins.  
(Aug. 15, 1862.)
50. What they have to do who stay at home.  
(Oct. 21, 1862.)
51. Revised Instructions for Camp Inspections.
52. Instructions to Inspectors.  
(Dec. 1, 1862.)
53. Rules of the Central Office.  
(Sept. 22, 1862.)
54. Material for Hospital Clothing.  
(Oct. 22, 1862.)
55. Reports from the Western Department—1st and 2d Editions.  
(Oct. 1862.)
56. Special Inspection of General Hospitals—1st Report.  
(Nov. 18, 1862.)
57. Operations of the Sanitary Commission after the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.  
(Dec. 13, 1862.)
58. Relief of Disabled Soldiers.  
(Feb. 14, 1863.) Embodied in a Report on the same subject, published in April, 1864, but not included in the Serial issues of the Commission.
59. Special Relief Report.  
(Dec. 15, 1862.) Included in Document 59a.)
- 59<sup>a</sup> Fourth Report concerning Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission to Sick Soldiers passing through Washington—With Supplement.  
(Feb. 1, 1863.)
60. Executive Organization.  
(Dec. 18, 1862.)



# U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
Rev. H. W. BELLOW, D. D.....New York.....	June 9, 1861.
ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE, LL. D.....Washington, D. C.....	"
WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.....New York.....	"
WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.....Cambridge, Mass.....	"
* ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A.....	"
† GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. A.....	"
‡ ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. A.....	"
SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.....Boston, Mass.....	"
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.....New York.....	June 12, 1861.
CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.....New York.....	"
GEORGE T. STRONG, Esq.....New York.....	June 13, 1861.
JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D.....Cleveland, O.....	June 14, 1861.
FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED, Esq.....New York.....	June 20, 1861.
Rt. Rev. THOMAS M. CLARK.....Providence, R. I.....	July 30, 1861.
HORACE BINNEY, Jr., Esq.....Philadelphia, Pa.....	July 30, 1861.
§ HON. R. W. BURNETT.....Cincinnati, O.....	Dec. 5, 1861.
HON. MARK SKINNER.....Chicago, Ill.....	Dec. 7, 1861.
§ HON. JOSEPH HOLT.....Washington, D. C.....	Jan. 23, 1863.
Rev. JAMES H. HEYWOOD.....Louisville, Ky.....	Jan. 23, 1863.
FAIRMAN ROGERS, Esq.....Philadelphia, Pa.....	Feb. 6, 1863.
J. HUNTINGTON WOLCOTT, Esq.....Boston, Mass.....	June 13, 1863.
CHARLES J. STILLÉ, Esq.....Philadelphia, Pa.....	Jan. 15, 1864.
EZRA B. MCCAGG, Esq.....Chicago, Ill.....	Mar. 9, 1864.

\* Resigned, December, 1864.

† Resigned, February, 1864.

‡ Resigned, December 17th, 1864.

§ These gentlemen never took their seats.

|| Resigned, 1864.





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 1.

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## AN ADDRESS TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR :

SIR: The undersigned, representing three associations of the highest respectability in the city of New York, namely, the Woman's Central Association of Relief for the Sick and Wounded of the Army, the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals of New York, the New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies in aid of the Army, beg leave to address the Department of War in behalf of the objects committed to them as a mixed delegation with due credentials.

These three associations, being engaged at home in a common object, are acting together with great efficiency and harmony to contribute towards the comfort and security of our troops, by methodizing the spontaneous benevolence of the city and State of New York ; obtaining information from the public authorities of the best methods of aiding your Department with such supplies as the regulations of the Army do not provide, or the sudden and pressing necessities of the time do not permit the Department to furnish ; and, in general, striving to play into the hands of the regular authorities in ways as efficient and as little embarrassing as extra-official co-operation can be.

These associations would not trouble the War Department with any call on its notice, if they were not persuaded that some positive recognition of their existence and efforts was essential to the peace and comfort of the several Bureaus of the War Department itself. The present is essentially a people's war. The hearts and minds, the bodies and souls, of the whole people and of both sexes throughout the loyal States are in it. The rush of volunteers to arms is equalled by the enthusiasm and zeal of the women of the nation, and the clerical and medical professions vie with each other in

their ardor to contribute in some manner to the success of our noble and sacred cause. The War Department will hereafter, therefore, inevitably experience, in all its bureaus, the incessant and irresistible motions of this zeal, in the offer of medical aid, the applications of nurses, and the contribution of supplies. Ought not this noble and generous enthusiasm to be encouraged and utilized? Would not the Department win a still higher place in the confidence and affections of the good people of the loyal States, and find itself generally strengthened in its efforts, by accepting in some positive manner the services of the associations we represent, which are laboring to bring into system and practical shape the general zeal and benevolent activity of the women of the land in behalf of the Army? And would not a great economy of time, money, and effort be secured by fixing and regulating the relations of the Volunteer Associations to the War Department, and especially to the Medical Bureau.

Convinced by inquiries made here of the practical difficulty of reconciling the aims of their own and numerous similar associations in other cities with the regular workings of the Commissariat and the Medical Bureau, and yet fully persuaded of the importance to the country and the success of the war, of bringing such an arrangement about, the undersigned respectfully ask that a mixed Commission of civilians distinguished for their philanthropic experience and acquaintance with sanitary matters, of medical men, and of military officers, be appointed by the Government, who shall be charged with the duty of investigating the best means of methodizing and reducing to practical service the already active but undirected benevolence of the people toward the Army; who shall consider the general subject of the prevention of sickness and suffering among the troops, and suggest the wisest methods, which the people at large can use to manifest their good-will towards the comfort, security, and health of the Army.

It must be well known to the Department of War that several such commissions *followed* the Crimean and Indian wars. The civilization and humanity of the age and of the American people demand that such a commission should

*precede* our second war of independence—more sacred than the first. We wish to prevent the evils that England and France could only investigate and deplore. This war ought to be waged in a spirit of the highest intelligence, humanity, and tenderness for the health, comfort, and safety of our brave troops. And every measure of the Government that shows its sense of this, will be eminently popular, strengthen its hands, and redound to its glory at home and abroad.

The undersigned are charged with several specific petitions, additional to that of asking for a Commission for the purposes above described, although they all would fall under the duties of that Commission.

1. They ask that the Secretary of War will order some new rigor in the inspection of volunteer troops, as they are persuaded that under the present State regulations throughout the country a great number of underaged and unsuitable persons are mustered, who are likely to swell the bills of mortality in the Army to a fearful per centage, to encumber the hospitals, and embarrass the columns. They ask either for an order of reinspection of the troops already mustered, or a summary discharge of those obviously destined to succumb to the diseases of the approaching summer. It is unnecessary to argue the importance of a measure so plainly required by common humanity and economy of life and money.

2. The committee are convinced by the testimony of the Medical Bureau itself, and the evidence of the most distinguished Army officers, including the Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant General Thomas, and the acting Surgeon General, that the cooking of the volunteer and new regiments in general is destined to be of the most crude and perilous description, and that no preventive measure could be so effectual in preserving health and keeping off disease, as an order of the Department requiring a skilled cook to be enlisted in each company of the regiments. The Woman's Central Association, in connection with the Medical Boards, are prepared to assume the duty of collecting, registering, and instructing a body of cooks, if the Department will pass such an order, accompanying it with the allotment of such wages as are equitable.



3. The committee represent that the Woman's Central Association of Relief have selected, and are selecting, out of several hundred candidates, one hundred women, suited in all respects to become nurses in the General Hospitals of the Army. These women the distinguished physicians and surgeons of the various hospitals in New York have undertaken to *educate and drill in a most thorough and laborious manner*; and the committee ask that the War Department consent to receive, on wages, these nurses, in such numbers as the exigencies of the campaign may require. It is not proposed that the nurses should advance to the seat of war, *until directly called for by the Medical Bureau here*, or that the Government should be at any expense until they are actually in service.

4. The committee ask that the Secretary of War issue an order that in case of need the Medical Bureau may call to the aid of the regular medical force a set of volunteer dressers, composed of young medical men, drilled for this purpose by the hospital physicians and surgeons of New York, giving them such subsistence and such recognition as the rules of the service may allow under a generous construction.

It is believed that a Commission would bring these and other matters of great interest and importance to the health of the troops into the shape of easy and practical adoption. But if no Commission is appointed, the committee pray that the Secretary will order the several suggestions made to be carried into immediate effect, if consistent with the laws of the Department, or possible without the action of Congress.

Feeling themselves directly to represent large and important constituencies, and, indirectly, a wide-spread and commanding public sentiment, the committee would most respectfully urge the immediate attention of the Secretary to the objects of their prayer.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.  
W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.  
J. HARSEN, M. D.

WASHINGTON, *May* 18, 1861.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 2.

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*Letter from the Acting Surgeon General to the Secretary of War, advising the institution of a Commission, to be styled "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," together with a Draft of the Powers asked from the Government, and of the objects sought by the proposed Commission; also the Order for the Commission by the Secretary of War, and its approval by the President.*

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## I.

*Letter from the Acting Surgeon General to the Secretary of War.*

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SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
May 22, 1861.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War* :

SIR: The sudden and large increase of the Army, more especially of the Volunteer force, has called the attention of this office to the necessity of some modifications and changes in the system of organization, as connected with the hygiene and comforts of the soldiers; more particularly in relation to the class of men who, actuated by patriotism, have repaired with unexampled promptness to the defence of the institutions and laws of the country.

The pressure upon the Medical Bureau has been very great and urgent; and though all the means at its disposal have been industriously used, much remains to be accomplished by directing the intelligent mind of the country to practical results connected with the comforts of the soldier by preventive and sanitary means.

The Medical bureau would, in my judgment, derive important and useful aid from the counsels and well-directed efforts of an intelligent and scientific commission, to be styled, "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," and acting in co-operation with the Bureau in elaborating and applying such facts as might be elicited from the experience and more extended observation of those connected with armies, with reference to the diet and hygiene of troops and the organization of military hospitals, etc.

This commission is not intended to interfere with, but to strengthen the present organization, introducing and elaborating such improvements as the advanced stage of Medical Science might suggest; more particularly as regards the class of men who, in this war of sections, may be called to abandon the comforts of home, and be subject to the privations and casualties of war.

The views of this office were expressed in a communication of May 18, 1861, in a crude and hasty manner, as to the examination of recruits, the proposed organization of cooks, nurses, &c., to which I beg leave to refer.

The selection of this Board is of the greatest importance.

In connection with those gentlemen who originated this investigation, with many others, I would suggest the following members, not to exceed five, to convene in Washington, who should have power to fill vacancies and appoint a competent Secretary:

REVEREND HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE, L. L. D.

PROFESSOR WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

JEFFRIES WYMAN, M. D.

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

It would be proper, also, to associate with this Board an officer of the Medical Staff of the Army, to be selected by the Secretary of War, familiar with the organization of Military Hospitals and the details of field service.

Respectfully submitted :

R. C. WOOD,  
*Acting Surgeon General.*



## II.

Draft of Powers asked from the Government by Sanitary Delegation to the President and the Secretary of War.

---

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1861.

TO THE HON. SECRETARY OF WAR :

The Medical Bureau of the U. S. Army having asked for the appointment of a Sanitary Commission, in aid of its own over-tasked energies, the Committee of the New York Delegation to the Government on Sanitary Affairs beg leave, at the request of the Medical Bureau, and as explanatory of its wishes, to state what precise *powers* are sought by the proposed Commission, and what specific *objects* are aimed at.

## P O W E R S .

1. The Commission being organized for purposes only of inquiry and advice, asks for no legal powers, but only the official recognition and moral countenance of the Government, which will be secured by its public appointment. It asks for a recommendatory order, addressed in its favor to all officers of the Government, to further its inquiries; for permission to correspond and confer, on a confidential footing, with the Medical Bureau and the War Department, proffering such suggestions and counsel as its investigations and studies may from time to time prompt and enable it to offer.

2. The Commission seeks no pecuniary remuneration from the Government. Its motives being humane and patriotic, its labors will be its own reward. The assignment to them of a room in one of the public buildings, with stationery and other necessary conveniences, would meet their expectations in this direction.

3. The Commission asks leave to sit through the war, either in Washington or when and where it may find it most convenient and useful; but it will disband should experience render its operations embarrassing to the Government, or less necessary and useful than it is now supposed they will prove.

## O B J E C T S .

The general object of the commission is, through suggestions reported from time to time to the Medical Bureau and the War Department, to bring to bear upon the health, comfort, and *morale* of our troops the fullest and ripest teachings of Sanitary Science in its application to military life, whether deduced from theory or practical observation, from general hygienic principles, or from the experience of the Crimean, the East Indian, and the Italian wars. Its objects are purely advisory.

The specific points to which its attention would be directed may here be partly indicated, but in some part must depend upon the course of events, and the results of its own observations and promptings, when fairly at work. If it knew precisely what the results of its own inquiries would be, it would state them at once, without asking for that authority and those governmental facilities essential to a successful investigation of the subject. As the Government may select its own Commissioners—the persons named in the recommendation of the Medical Bureau being wholly undesirous, however willing to serve, if other persons more deserving of the confidence of the Government and of the public can be nominated—it is hoped that the character of the Commission will be the best warrant the Government can have that the inquiries of the Commission, both as to their nature and the manner of conducting them, will be pursued with discretion and a careful eye to avoiding impertinent and offensive interference with the legal authority and official rights of any of the Bureaus with which it may be brought in contact.

## S P E C I F I C A T I O N S .

## I. MATERIEL. II. PREVENTION. III. RELIEF.

1. MATERIEL OF THE VOLUNTEERS.—The Commission proposes a practical inquiry into the materiel of the Volunteer Force, with reference to the laws and usages of the several States in the matter of Inspection, with the hope of assim-

lating their regulations with those of the Army proper, alike in the appointment of medical and other officers and in the rigorous application of just rules and principles to recruiting and inspection laws. This inquiry would exhaust every topic appertaining to the original *materiel* of the army, considered as a subject of sanitary and medical care.

II. PREVENTION.—The Commission would inquire with scientific thoroughness into the subject of Diet, Cooking, Cooks, Clothing, Tents, Camping Grounds, Transports, Transitory Depots, with their exposures, Camp Police, with reference to settling the question, How far the regulations of the Army proper are or can be practically carried out among the Volunteer Regiments, and what changes or modifications are desirable from their peculiar character and circumstances? Everything appertaining to outfit, cleanliness, precautions against damp, cold, heat, malaria, infection; crude, unvaried, or ill-cooked food, and an irregular or careless regimental commissariat, would fall under this head.

III. RELIEF.—The Commission would inquire into the organization of Military Hospitals, general and regimental; the precise regulations and routine through which the services of the patriotic women of the country may be made available as nurses; the nature and sufficiency of Hospital supplies; the method of obtaining and regulating all other extra and unbought supplies contributing to the comfort of the sick; the question of ambulances and field service, and of extra medical aid; and whatever else relates to the care, relief, or cure of the sick and wounded—their investigations being guided by the highest and latest medical and military experience, and carefully adapted to the nature and wants of our immediate army, and its peculiar origin and circumstances.

Very respectfully submitted, in behalf of the New York delegation.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *Chairman*.

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

JACOB HARSEN, M. D.

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.

## III.

Sanitary Commission ordered by Secretary of War, and approved by the President.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, June 9, 1861.*

The Secretary of War has learned, with great satisfaction, that at the instance and in pursuance of the suggestion of the Medical Bureau, in a communication to this office, dated May 22, 1861, Henry W. Bellows, D. D., Prof. A. D. Bache, L. L. D., Prof. Jeffries Wyman, M. D., Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, M. D., W. H. Van Buren, M. D., Samuel G. Howe, M. D., R. C. Wood, Surgeon U. S. A., G. W. Cullum, U. S. A., Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A., have mostly consented, in connection with such others as they may choose to associate with them, to act as "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," and without remuneration from the Government. The Secretary has submitted their patriotic proposal to the consideration of the President, who directs the acceptance of the services thus generously offered.

The Commission, in connection with a Surgeon of the U. S. A., to be designated by the Secretary, will direct its inquiries to the principles and practices connected with the inspection of recruits and enlisted men; the sanitary condition of the volunteers; to the means of preserving and restoring the health, and of securing the general comfort and efficiency of troops; to the proper provision of cooks, nurses, and hospitals; and to other subjects of like nature.

The Commission will frame such rules and regulations, in respect of the objects and modes of its inquiry, as may seem best adapted to the purpose of its constitution, which, when approved by the Secretary, will be established as general guides of its investigations and action.

A room with necessary conveniences will be provided in the City of Washington for the use of the Commission, and



the members will meet when and at such places as may be convenient to them for consultation, and for the determination of such questions as may come properly before the Commission.

In the progress of its inquiries, the Commission will correspond freely with the Department and with the Medical Bureau, and will communicate to each, from time to time, such observations and results as it may deem expedient and important.

The Commission will exist until the Secretary of War shall otherwise direct, unless sooner dissolved by its own action.

SIMON CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

I approve the above.

A. LINCOLN.

June 13, 1861.

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Organization of the Commission, Washington, June 13, 1861.

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HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*  
 PROF. A. D. BACHE, *Vice President.*  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Corresponding Sec'y.*  
 GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. Army.*  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. Army.*  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. Army.*  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.  
 GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer.*





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 3.

---

## PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

FOR

“THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AND ADVICE  
IN RESPECT OF THE SANITARY INTERESTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES.”

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The Commission naturally divides itself into two branches, one of *Inquiry*, the other of *Advice*, to be represented by two principal Committees, into which the Commission should divide.

I. INQUIRY.—This branch of the Commission would again naturally subdivide itself into three stems, inquiring successively in respect of the condition and wants of the troops:—

1st. What *must be* the condition and want of troops gathered together in such masses, so suddenly, and with such inexperience?

2d. What *is* their condition?—a question to be settled only by direct and positive observation and testimony.

3d. What *ought to be* their condition, and how would Sanitary Science bring them up to the standard of the highest attainable security and efficiency?

### SUB-COMMITTEES OF BRANCH OF INQUIRY.

A. Under the first Committee's care would come the suggestion of such immediate aid, and such obvious recommendations as an intelligent foresight and an ordinary acquaintance with received principles of sanitary science would enable the Board at once to urge upon the public authorities.

B. The second Sub-Committee would have in charge, directly or through agents, the actual exploration of recruiting posts, transports, camps, quarters, tents, forts, hospitals; and consultation with Officers—Colonels, Captains, Surgeons, and Chaplains—at their posts, to collect from them heedful testimony as to the condition and wants of the troops.

C. The third Sub-Committee would investigate, theoretically and practically, all questions of diet, cooking, and cooks; of clothing, foot, head, and body gear; of quarters, tents, booths, huts; of hospitals, field service, nurses, and surgical dressers; of climate and its effects, malaria, and camp and hospital diseases and contagions; of ventilation, natural and artificial; of vaccination; anti-scorbutics; disinfectants; of sinks, drains, camp sites, and cleanliness in general; of best method of economizing and preparing rations, or changing or exchanging them. All these questions to be treated from the highest scientific ground, with the newest light of physiology, chemistry, and medicine, and the latest teachings of experience in the great continental wars.

Probably these Committees of Inquiry could convert to their use, without fee or reward, all our medical and scientific men now in the army, or elsewhere, especially by sending an efficient agent about among the regiments to establish active correspondence with surgeons, chaplains, and others, as well as by a public advertisement and call for such help and information.

II. ADVICE.—This branch of the Commission would subdivide itself into three stems, represented by three Sub-Committees. The general object of this branch would be to get the opinions and conclusions of the Commission approved by the Medical Bureau, ordered by the War Department, carried out by the officers and men, and encouraged, aided, and supported by the benevolence of the public at large, and by the State governments. It would subdivide itself naturally into three parts.

1. A Sub-Committee, in direct relation with the Government, the Medical Bureau, and the War Department; having for its object the communication of the counsels of the

Commission, and the procuring of their approval and ordering by the U. S. Government.

2. A Sub-Committee in direct relation with the army officers, medical men, the camps and hospitals, whose duty it should be to look after the actual carrying out of the orders of the War Department and the Medical Bureau, and make sure, by inspection, urgency, and explanation, by influence, and all proper methods, of their actual accomplishment.

3. A Sub-Committee in direct relation with the State governments, and with the public associations of benevolence. First, to secure uniformity of plans, and then proportion and harmony of action; and finally, abundance of supplies in moneys and goods, for such extra purposes as the laws do not and cannot provide for.

#### SUB-COMMITTEES OF BRANCH OF ADVICE.

D. The Sub-Committee in direct relation with the Government, would immediately urge the most obvious measures, favored by the Commission on the War Department, and secure their emphatic reiteration of orders now neglected. It would establish confidential relations with the Medical Bureau. A Secretary, hereafter to be named, would be the head and hand of this Sub-Committee—always near the Government, and always urging the wishes and aims of the Commission upon its attention.

E. This Sub-Committee, in direct relation with the army officers, medical men, the camps, forts, and hospitals, would have it for its duty to explain and enforce upon inexperienced, careless, or ignorant officials, the regulations of a sanitary kind ordered by the Department of War and the Medical Bureau; of complaining to the Department of disobedience, sloth, or defect, and of seeing to the general carrying out of the objects of the Commission in their practical details.

F. This Sub-Committee, in direct relation with State authorities and benevolent associations, would have it for its duties to look after three chief objects.

First.—How far the difficulties in the sanitary condition and prospects of the troops are due to original defects in the



laws of the States or the inspection usages, or in the manner in which officers, military or medical, have been appointed in the several States, with a view to the adoption of a general system, by which the State laws may all be assimilated to the United States regulations.

This could probably only be brought about by calling a convention of delegates from the several loyal States, to agree upon some uniform system; or, that failing, by agreeing upon a model State arrangement, and sending a suitable agent to the Governors and Legislatures, with a prayer for harmonious action and co-operation.

Second.—To call in New York a convention of delegates from all the benevolent associations throughout the country, to agree upon a plan of common action in respect of supplies, depots, and methods of feeding the extra demands of the Medical Bureau or Commissariat, without embarrassment to the usual machinery. This, too, might, if a convention were deemed impossible, be effected by sending about an agent of special adaptation. Thus the organizing, methodizing, and reducing to serviceableness the vague, disproportioned, and hap-hazard benevolence of the public, might be successfully accomplished.

Third.—To look after the pecuniary ways and means necessary for accomplishing the various objects of the Commission, through solicitation of donations, either from State treasuries or private beneficence. The treasurer might be at the head of this Special Committee.

#### OFFICERS.

If these general suggestions be adopted, the officers of the Commission might properly be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*President.*—His duties would be to call and preside over all meetings of the Commission, and give unity, method, and practical success to its counsels.

The *Vice President* would perform the President's duties in his absence.

The *Secretary* should be a gentleman of special competency, charged with the chief executive duties of the Commission,

in constant correspondence with its President; be resident at Washington, and admitted to confidential intimacy with the Medical Bureau and the War Department. Under him such agents as could safely be trusted with the duties of inspection and advice in camps, hospitals, fortresses, &c., should work, receiving instructions from, and reporting to, him. He would be immediately in connection with the Committees A and B of the Branch of Inquiry, and of Committees D and E of the Branch of Advice.

*The Treasurer* would hold and disburse, as ordered by the Commission, the funds of the body. These funds would be derived from such sources as the Commission, when its objects were known, might find open or make available. Donations, voluntary and solicited; contributions from patriotic and benevolent associations, or State treasuries, would be the natural supply of the cost of sustaining a commission whose members would give their time, experience, and labor to a cause of the most obvious and pressing utility, and the most radical charity and wide humanity; who, while unwilling to depend on the General Government for even their incidental expenses, could not perform their duties without some moderate sum in hand to facilitate their movements.

The publication of the final report of the Commission, could be arranged by subscription or private enterprise.

As the scheme of this Commission may appear impracticable from apprehended jealousies, either on the part of the Medical Bureau or the War Department, it may be proper to state, that the Medical Bureau itself asked for the appointment of the Commission, and that no ill-feeling exists or will exist between the Commission and the War Department, or the Government. The Commission grows out of no charges of negligence or incompetency in the War Department or the Medical Bureau. The sudden increase of volunteer forces has thrown unusual duties upon them. The Commission is chiefly concerned with the volunteers, and one of its highest ambitions is to bring the volunteers up to the regulars in respect of sanitary regulations and customs. To aid the Medical Bureau, without displacing it, or in any



manner infringing upon its rights and duties, is the object of the Commission. The embarrassments anticipated from etiquette or official jealousy, have all been overcome in advance, by a frank and cordial understanding, met with large and generous feelings by the Medical Bureau and the Department of War.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

PROF. A. D. BACHE, *Vice President.*

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Corresponding Sec'y.*

GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. Army.*

ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. Army.*

ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. Army.*

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.

CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.

GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer.*

WASHINGTON, *June 13, 1861.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, June 13, 1861.*

I hereby approve of the plan of organization proposed by the Sanitary Commission, as above given; and all persons in the employ of the United States Government are directed and enjoined to respect and further the inquiries and objects of this Commission, to the utmost of their ability.

SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War.*

## ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES.

### Committee of Inquiry.

WOLCOTT GIBBS.

W. H. VAN BUREN,

ELISHA HARRIS,

S. G. HOWE,

C. R. AGNEW,

THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, } EX-OFFICIO.  
AND TREASURER. }

**Committee of Advice.**

A. D. BACHE,  
 ROBERT C. WOOD.  
 G. W. CULLUM,  
 A. E. SHIRAS,  
 THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, } EX-OFFICIO.  
 AND TREASURER,

**Sub-Committees.****A.**

H. W. BELLOWS,  
 A. E. SHIRAS,  
 C. R. AGNEW.

**B.**

THE SECRETARY,  
 W. H. VAN BUREN,  
 G. W. CULLUM,  
 S. G. HOWE.

**C.**

W. H. VAN BUREN,  
 E. HARRIS,  
 W. GIBBS,  
 C. R. AGNEW,  
 G. T. STRONG.

**D.**

THE SECRETARY,  
 A. D. BACHE,  
 R. C. WOOD.

**E.**

THE SECRETARY,  
 G. W. CULLUM,  
 A. E. SHIRAS.

**F.**

C. R. AGNEW,  
 H. W. BELLOWS,  
 G. T. STRONG,  
 THE SECRETARY.



ADDRESS.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed by the Secretary of War, with the approval of the President of the United States, a Commission to inquire into the sanitary condition of the volunteer regiments engaged in the service of Government, and to take measures to remedy defects therein, by recommendations addressed to the proper military authorities, and otherwise, beg leave respectfully and earnestly to ask the support and co-operation of their fellow-citizens throughout the country, in the work thus confided to them.

Its magnitude and importance are, unfortunately, self-evident. As a general rule, four soldiers die of diseases incident to camp-life, for one that falls in battle. Such is the average mortality among regular troops. Among volunteers it will be found much larger. We all remember the frightful history of the British campaign in the Crimea. If such was the suffering and loss of soldiers organized and supplied under an established system, with officers educated in their profession, and generally qualified by experience to take care of their men, what is like to be the fate of an army, hurriedly levied in communities that have enjoyed the profoundest peace for generations, and whose officers are mostly without practical knowledge of the dangers to which masses of men are exposed by fatigue, climate, unwholesome food, and other perils of camp-life, and of the sanitary measures by which these dangers may be met and diminished?

Such sanitary measures, prudently devised and thoroughly executed, will do more to economize the lives of our soldiers, and thus to save the Nation men, money, and time, than could be effected by any improvement in the arms put into their hands.

For example, the difference between well-cooked digestible food and ill-cooked indigestible food, consumed by a regiment during three months of actual service in the field, is equivalent to a difference of at least forty per cent. in its available strength at the end of that period. The quality of the water it drinks is equally important. But no systematic provision has yet been made for supplying our newly-levied troops with either properly cooked food or properly purified water. They have already begun to sicken from the want of both. The men and apparatus required to supply these urgent wants will cost money, but our neglect to provide them will cost us tenfold more in the end. Common prudence, therefore, and mere selfish economy demand attention to the subject, even if we ignore the impulse of patriotism and the Christian duty of caring for the health and life of those we send into the field to defend our national existence.

Many other subjects, equally important, demand prompt action, and are to be included in the operations of this Commission. The clothing supplied the volunteer regiments—their tents, huts, and quarters, their hospitals, their supply of nurses, the purity of the medicines supplied them, the general sanitary regulations (as to ventilation of tents and quarters, for instance, drainage of camp sites, the use of disinfectants, bathing and personal cleanliness) to be enforced as part of our military system—precautions against disease to be adopted in particular localities; these and many other points demand investigation and action with the least possible delay. If the Commission shall be enabled fully to execute the work it contemplates, and hopes to accomplish, it will save at least twenty thousand out of every hundred thousand men raised for the war from perishing uselessly, ingloriously, and unnecessarily from mere want of the systematic precau-



tions which ought to be provided (and which can be provided at a cost comparatively insignificant) against the perils of exposure and disease.

Though members of the Commission gladly serve without fee or reward, they require the aid of their fellow-countrymen to enable them to execute what they have undertaken. Permanent salaried agents at Washington and other great military centres, are indispensable. These must be men of high grade, possessing not only scientific education, but efficiency in business and a talent for details. Funds will also be required for expenses of travelling, printing, and transportation, and for other purposes.

For these objects the undersigned appeal, with perfect confidence, to the liberality of their fellow-citizens. For obvious reasons, they are reluctant to make application to Congress for an appropriation. It is proper to add that the Commission was appointed by the War Department on the suggestion of the Medical Bureau at Washington. It originated, in fact, from the manifest inability of the authorities heretofore entrusted with the sanitary charge of our little army to provide for its wants when suddenly increased to hundreds of thousands. An amount of work simply impracticable was thus thrown upon the Medical Bureau, and made the appointment of volunteer aids absolutely indispensable.

The Commission has every reason to believe that it is honored with the full confidence of Government, and will receive its cordial co-operation and support. Rooms have been assigned it in the Treasury Building, Washington. It is vested with full authority by the Surgeon-General of the Army to inspect and examine all posts, camps, and hospitals, and holds the order of the Secretary of War that all persons in the employ of Government respect and further the inquiries and objects of the Commission, to the utmost of their ability. Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, of New York, consents to serve as its resident secretary and general agent at Washington. Donations and subscriptions in aid of its

object are earnestly solicited. They should be addressed to its Treasurer, George T. Strong, 68 Wall Street, New York.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSION,

TREASURY BUILDING, June 21st, 1861.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President, N. Y.*

PROF. A. D. BACHE, *Vice President, Washington.*

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Corres. Sec'y, N. Y.*

GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. A., Washington.*

ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. A., Washington.*

ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. A., Washington.*

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D., *N. Y.*

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D., *N. Y.*

SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D., *Boston.*

CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D., *N. Y.*

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., *Cleveland.*

GEORGE T. STRONG, *N. Y.*

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, *N. Y.*

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 5.

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## TO THE PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS OF THE VARIOUS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENTLEMEN : You are directly and largely interested in the lives of our brave soldiers; so many of whom are insured in your several offices. Their principle danger comes, as you are well aware, not from the force of the enemy, but from the ravages of those diseases always active in camps and fortresses, and especially so among inexperienced volunteer troops, suddenly subjected to change of climate, to unusual heat, and to great exposure. The officers in charge of the principal portion of these lives are brave, intelligent men, ready to shed their blood for the liberties of the country ; but they are without experience in the care of their soldiers, and, with the best intentions, must fail if not supported by extraneous efforts and experience, in saving them from pestilence and destruction in a ratio too fearful to name. In view of the enormous responsibility thrown by extraordinary events upon the Medical Bureau, and at the urgent instance of medical men at large, a Sanitary Commission has been appointed by the Government of the United States, to advise the War Department, and the Medical Bureau, of the most efficient way of preventing disease among the troops and warding off general pestilence and rapid decimation, and to co-operate with them in their efforts to this end. Reasonable fears exist, that unless the most energetic efforts are made, one-half our whole volunteer force may not survive the exposures of the next four months. This Commission is now in full organization, and ready to go to work. It wants money. It

needs twenty thousand dollars in hand to proceed with vigor to its sublimely important work. It has declined asking or receiving money from the Government, for fear it might thus forfeit its independent position, and lose in moral strength what it gained by Government patronage. If the Government supported it, its members would be appointed by the Government and acquire a political character, or be chosen not for their competency to the work, but from local and partisan reasons. We choose, then, to depend as long and as far as we can on the support of the public. And we look to the Life Insurance Companies, whose intelligent acquaintance with vital statistics constitutes them the proper and the readiest judges of the necessity of such a Commission, to give the first endorsement to our enterprise by generous donations—the best proof they can afford the public of the solid claim we have on the liberality of the rich, the patriotic, and the humane. We beg to remind you, moreover, that even those Life Insurance Companies which have no war risks outstanding are directly and deeply interested in promoting the objects of this Commission. For no fact in medical history is better established than this—that diseases breaking out among soldiers in camp or garrison, for the want of prudent sanitary measures, and extending among them on any considerable scale, are soon shared by the community at large. The mere presence in any country of an army extensively infected, is a centre of poison to its whole people. If pestilence do not break out (as it commonly does) ordinary maladies assume a malignant and unmanageable type, and the general ratio of mortality is heightened in a fearful degree.

Our case is urgent, and every hour's delay is a serious blow to our success. We ask for prompt, nay, for immediate action. We wish to send skilled agents to every point of danger—men armed with the influence and authority of the Sanitary Commission—to put all general officers and all medical men, the captains and all other responsible persons, whether in camps or fortresses, upon their guard; to arouse an unusual attention to the subject of good cooking, regular



meals, absolute cleanliness, proper ventilation, and the use of prophylactics. An examination of the papers accompanying this appeal, will show you the ampleness of our powers, and the vigor and completeness of our machinery. We can do a vast work, in a short time, if we have abundant means. Fifty thousand dollars would, we seriously think, enable us to save fifty thousand lives. Can there be any hesitation in furnishing such a sum, for such a vast and holy purpose? And ought not, must not, your Life Insurance Companies lead boldly and generously in this imperative duty? We are willing to give our time, our thoughts, our energies, and whatever of skill, experience, and knowledge we may possess, to this work; but we look to you and to the wealth of our cities to supply us with the money required to effect the beneficent objects proposed by the Sanitary Commission.

Very respectfully and fraternally, yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

ALEX. D. BACHE.

WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.

JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D., (Cleveland.)

FRED. LAW OLMSTED.

GEO. T. STRONG, *Treasurer.*

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Corresponding Sec'y.*

SANITARY COMMISSION,

(In Session in New York,)

June 21, 1861.





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 6.

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At a meeting of the Commission, held in the city of New York, June 22d, 1861,

*Whereas*, The professional and scientific character of the Sanitary Commission makes it dependent on the existence of Financial Committees in various parts of the country to be composed of business men, for the collection of funds,

*Resolved*, That the following gentlemen, and such others as they may choose to associate with them, viz :

JOHN J. CISCO,  
A. T. STEWART,  
R. H. McCURDY,  
JOHN C. GREEN,  
A. A. LOW,  
CYRUS W. FIELD,  
PETER COOPER,

ROBERT B. MINTURN,  
MOSES TAYLOR,  
ROBERT C. GOODHUE,  
CHARLES E. STRONG,  
W. F. CARY,  
JONATHAN STURGES,  
ROBERT L. STUART,

who are hereby declared associate members of this Commission, be invited to act as a Central Financial Committee to collect and receive from local Committees funds for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, and to audit its accounts. That Dr. Gibbs, Dr. Van Buren, Dr. Agnew, and Mr. Strong, with the officers of the Commission, be a Special Committee to wait on these gentlemen with explanations of the plans and purposes of the Commission, and with the duty of urging upon them the acceptance of the office hereby assigned them. And that the Treasurer make monthly reports to such Committee of all moneys received and paid out by him.

HENRY W. BELLOWS,  
Prest.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 7.

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SANITARY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

TREASURY BUILDING, June 22, 1861.

SIR: The Sanitary Commission just ordered by the United States Government has a field of labor open to it of vast importance and immense urgency. The lives of 250,000 troops, four times more endangered from disease than from the casualties of war, are now hanging in the scales; and whether fifty per cent. of them are carried off by dysentery, fever, and cholera, in the course of the next four months, or whether they are maintained, at what under the best condition is the double risk of life, depends, under God, upon the most efficient application of sanitary science to their protection. In the sudden and enormous responsibility thrown upon the Government, the usual medical dependence is so strained that extraordinary means are necessary to meet the case. Under these circumstances, our Commission, with special power and duties, has been brought into existence. To avoid political jealousies, and secure a Board of harmonious and high-toned advisers, it has been thought desirable to derive the support of the Commission from the public, rather than the Government. The Commissioners freely give their time, experience, and labor to the country. But they must keep active agents at numerous points constantly and vigilantly at work, in urging the preventive measures on which they depend for success; and this involves a large expenditure of money. It is supposed that fifty thousand dollars could be expended with the greatest advantage during the present year, in the work of the Commission, and that every single dollar so spent would save one life. Every dollar less than this placed at the disposal of the Commission must be considered as the needless exposure and probable loss of a

life! It is hoped that the character and standing of the Commissioners is the only warrant the public will require for their energetic and faithful performance of the duties assigned them. Under these circumstances, the undersigned, members of the Sanitary Commission now in session in New York, ask the immediate contributions of the men of wealth in as generous a measure as the greatness of the interest at stake, and the urgency of the case may prompt their humane hearts and fore-looking minds.

It is hardly necessary to suggest that every soldier, who survives the exposure of the next four months, will be worth for military purposes two fresh recruits; that every man lost by neglect makes a complaining family, and forms a ground of unpopularity for the war; that every sick man deprives the ranks of one or two well men detailed to take care of him; that pestilence will demoralize and frighten those whom armed enemies cannot scare; that the men now in the field are the flower of the nation; that their places cannot be filled either at home or in the ranks; and that the economical, the humane, the patriotic, the successful conduct of this war, and its speedy termination, is now more dependent on the *health* of the troops than any and all other conditions combined.

Help us, then, dear sir, to do this work, for which our machinery is now complete! Help us generously; help us at once!

In the name of God, humanity, and our country.

Yours fraternally,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,  
 PROF. A. D. BACHE,  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,  
 GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. Army,  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. Army,  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. Army,  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.,  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
 GEORGE T. STRONG,  
 FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED,  
 Commissioners.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 8.

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OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSION,  
TREASURY BUILDING, WASHINGTON, July, 13, 1861.

*To his Excellency the Governor of the State of*

SIR: The Commission of Inquiry and Advice, in respect of the sanitary condition of the United States forces, appointed by the Secretary of War at the instance of the Medical Bureau of the Army, ask the attention of your excellency to the enclosed series of inquiries, and request that you will have the kindness to cause a reply to them as soon as may be found convenient.

The object of the Commission in asking for this information, is simply to gain the means of forming a more exact estimate than would otherwise be practicable, of the condition, prospects, and requirements of the forces to be in the field this summer, and thus of advising with the State authorities, as well as the General Government, as to changes of the regulations and other measures necessary to be taken, to guard against pestilence, and to mitigate the suffering from illness and wounds, to which the defenders of our nationality will be subject.

Confidently anticipating for this purpose the approval and co-operation of your Excellency,

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*Resident Secretary.*

1. How many regiments from your State are now in the field, and how many are encamped or quartered within the State? What number of officers and men compose each regiment?
2. How many regiments and companies from your State have been formally accepted by Government?
3. What proportion of the officers in each regiment have received a military education, and what proportion have had actual experience in the care and management of men in the field?
4. How many surgeons and assistant surgeons are attached to each regiment? What proportion of them have had a regular medical education? By whom and when were they appointed? Have any of them been subjected to a preliminary examination as to professional competency before appointment? By whom, and under what State law or regulation?
5. Have any nurses, male or female, been assigned to any of the regiments? If so, how many?
6. Have any military hospitals been established by your State since the breaking out of the present war? Describe their site, capacity in number of beds, and construction, how many surgeons and assistant surgeons have been appointed to such hospitals, and what means have been taken to ensure their professional competency?
7. What provision has been made by your State for hospital supplies, such as beds and bedding, medicines, dressings, extra articles of food, &c.?
8. Have any rations been supplied by your State to new regiments, before being mustered into the service of the United States? If so, of what did these rations consist, and in what quantities were they furnished?
9. Are there any regular regimental or company cooks in any of the regiments from your State? and if so, on what terms have they been enlisted or employed?

10. Give the date of the acceptance of each regiment, and the length of time during which each was encamped or quartered within the State, before or after being mustered into the service of the General Government? Where was each regiment encamped or quartered before its departure?
11. What provisions have been made in your State for the organization of a State Medical Department for the volunteer and militia forces?
12. Were the recruits in any of the regiments from your State subjected to medical inspection previously to being enrolled? In which regiments was this done? By whom, and with what degree of care were they inspected? Was this inspection by a medical man? If so, by whom was he appointed, and on what evidences of his capacity? Please send a copy of the instructions given the inspecting officer.
13. In what manner were the commissaries of subsistence in the different regiments from your State appointed, and what evidences of capacity and experience were required previous to appointment?
14. In what manner were the quartermasters of the different regiments from your State appointed, and what evidences of capacity and experience were required previous to appointment?

HENRY W. BELLOWS, President.  
 Prof. A. D. BACHE, Vice President.  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., Corresponding Sec'y.  
 GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. Army.  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. Army.  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. Army.  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.  
 GEORGE T. STRONG, Treasurer.  
 FRED. LAW OLMSTED, Resident Secretary.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 9.

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The Commission require exact information upon the following points :

## HYGIENE.

1. What is the situation of the fort, camp, or barracks in which you are stationed? What is the character of the surrounding country? What diseases are peculiar to the locality, so far as known?
- (a) Is the camp situated upon level ground or upon a declivity, and what are the provisions for drainage in wet weather?
- (b) What is the character of the subsoil?
- (c) Are there any swamps or marshes; if so, at what distance, and in what direction, and what are the prevalent winds?
2. Was the position occupied selected for military reasons only, or was its salubrity taken into consideration?
3. What is the number of regiments in and about the fort or camp? When did each regiment arrive, and in what condition as to clothing, health, &c.?
4. Draw a fair and impartial comparison between the different regiments in point of equipments, as to clothing, and between their relative sanitary condition. State the causes of the differences observed, if any.
5. Give the ages of the men, so far as can be ascertained, and their previous occupations and place of enlistment.
6. Have strict physical examinations been made in any cases before enlisting? What proportion of the applicants were rejected?
7. Has any order been received from headquarters at Washington, relative to re-examination of new regiments and recruits, with the object of getting rid of men physically unfit for active military service?
8. If so, what proportion of reinspected troops have been rejected?
9. What number of men in each regiment have been discharged from non-age or physical disability?



10. Have any general or special orders relating to the sanitary condition of the troops been received from headquarters at Washington, or from the authorities of the State from which your regiment was sent? If so, what were those orders, and what changes or improvements were thereupon introduced?
11. Have the medical officers in your regiment organized a hospital department, with a steward, nurses, &c., ready for emergencies?
12. What is the number of surgeons and assistant surgeons in each regiment? How, and by whom were they appointed, and with what previous advantages and experience?
13. Is the regiment provided with ambulances, field stretchers, or other means of transporting the sick and wounded? State how many, how constructed, and by whom furnished.
14. By whom, and in what manner have medicines and surgical appliances been supplied? Is the regiment fully supplied with articles needed for the use of the sick and wounded? What are the deficiencies, if any?
15. What are the direct effects of the climate, so far as observed? Have any special precautions been taken against sun-stroke, malaria, and the use of improper food or drinks?
16. What style of tents is in use, and what provisions have been adopted for their ventilation and dryness? How many men are quartered in each tent?
17. Are there sinks or privies in the fort, barracks, or camp, sufficient for the wants of the men; and if so, are they deodorized, and in what manner, and how often? Are there separate sinks for the hospital patients, and are special precautions taken for their frequent disinfection? Are the men restricted to the use of these privies?
18. Are soldiers obliged to obey any rules of personal cleanliness, such as bathing, frequent change and cleansing of under clothing?
19. Have the troops been revaccinated thoroughly and successfully? By whom, and under what orders?
20. How much varioloid or small-pox has occurred, and what means are taken to prevent either from spreading?

21. How much has measles prevailed? Is its type severe or mild? What have been the sequelæ of measles?
22. What other diseases have appeared, and what has been their character and causes? How far have parasites, as lice, fleas, &c., infested the troops, and what means have been taken to eradicate them?
23. How many deaths have occurred thus far, and from what causes? How have the dead been interred, at what depths, and at what distance from camp?
24. Have the troops any games or amusements, and have any means been taken to promote cheerfulness?
25. What disinfecting agents are employed in the soldier's quarters, and what in the hospitals? How often, and in what quantities have they been used? What means have been adopted for the cleansing of the tents and quarters?

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#### FOOD, &c.

26. What rations are used in the regiments? Please to answer in detail, stating the kind of food, and its quantity and quality.
27. Are fresh vegetables purchased and supplied to the men when they can be obtained? Have the men, under the present regulations, a sufficient supply of vegetable food? Have any cases of scurvy occurred?
- 27<sup>a</sup>. Is the system of supplying fresh vegetables through the agency of the company fund successfully applied, and does it effect the object contemplated by the Army regulations?
- 27<sup>b</sup>. Have extra issues of anti-scorbutics, fresh vegetables, rice, &c., been required for the health of the troops as allowed by regulations on recommendation of a medical officer?
28. Have dried fruits of any kind been supplied to the men? If so, how often, and in what quantities?
29. How often is fresh meat supplied, and in what quantity?
30. Is the water used for drinking of good quality, and from what source is it obtained?
31. Have the medicines been of good quality and well selected? Have the hospital stores been sufficient in quantity and of good quality?

32. To what extent is the spirit ration issued, and what spirits are used?
33. How many cooks are there in each regiment, and in what manner were they appointed?
34. In what manner is the food prepared, and with what apparatus is the cooking performed?
35. How is the bread prepared and baked? Is yeast used or prepared flour? Are crackers or biscuits issued with rations?

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### CLOTHING.

36. What is the uniform of each regiment, and by whom and how was it supplied to the men? Answer in detail.
37. What underclothes are worn by the men, and how many changes have the men? Is flannel worn next the skin, and to what extent?
38. What deficiencies exist as to clothing, shoes, &c.?
39. Are the men provided with blankets or overcoats? Have they India-rubbia cloths to put under their blankets when lying upon the ground?

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### CAMP POLICE.

40. How far from the camp are the horses picketed? How far from the camp are the cattle placed? What disposition is made of their manure?
41. At what distance from the camp are the cattle slaughtered, and what disposition is made of the offal?
42. Is there any special place for refuse food and slops, and are soldiers confined to the use of such place?
43. Are there trenches around the tents for drainage?
44. Do these communicate with a general drain?
45. How is the water thus collected disposed of?

HENRY W. BELLOW, President.  
 Prof. A. D. BACHE, Vice President.  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., Corresponding Sec'y.  
 GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. Army.  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. Army.  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. Army.  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.  
 GEO. T. STRONG, Treasurer.  
 FRED. LAW OLMSTED, Resident Secretary.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 10.

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TREASURY BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 22d, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—We have the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Sanitary Commission this day held in the city of New York, you were duly elected an associate member.

We enclose herewith copies of the address issued by the Commission, and of other papers, from which you will readily inform yourself as to its constitution and objects, and as to the urgent necessity which led to its creation by Government.

We trust you will be led to share our conviction that the speediest and most energetic action on the part of the Commission and its associate members, and of the whole country, is absolutely necessary to preserve our armies now in the field from the destructive epidemics to which ill-regulated camps are exposed.

For this purpose we entreat your active co-operation and support.

Any suggestions and advice which your experience may suggest are earnestly solicited. We also ask that you will do whatever lies in your power to obtain for the Commission the means required to carry out its object, to inform the public fully (through the press and otherwise) of the existence and design of the Commission, and of the great and pressing danger which it is intended to mitigate or to remove; to promote the establishment of auxiliary organizations, and so to direct the labors of associations already formed for the aid and relief of our armies, that they may strengthen and support those of the Committee.



As this subject is one of national interest, and as prompt and energetic action on it by liberal, intelligent, and prudent men throughout the country is indispensable to prevent the most fearful disaster and loss, both public and private, we confidently rely on your cordial support and aid.

Communications may be addressed to E. HARRIS, M. D., Corresponding Secretary of the Commission, Washington, D. C. Subscriptions and donations to GEORGE T. STRONG, Treasurer, 68 Wall street, New York.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, Pres't,  
ALEX. DALLAS BACHE,  
GEO. W. CULLUM, U. S. A.,  
ALEX. E. SHIRAS, U. S. A.,  
ROBT. C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A.,  
SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.,  
WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,  
WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,  
CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,  
JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
GEO. T. STRONG,  
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,  
Commissioners.

To

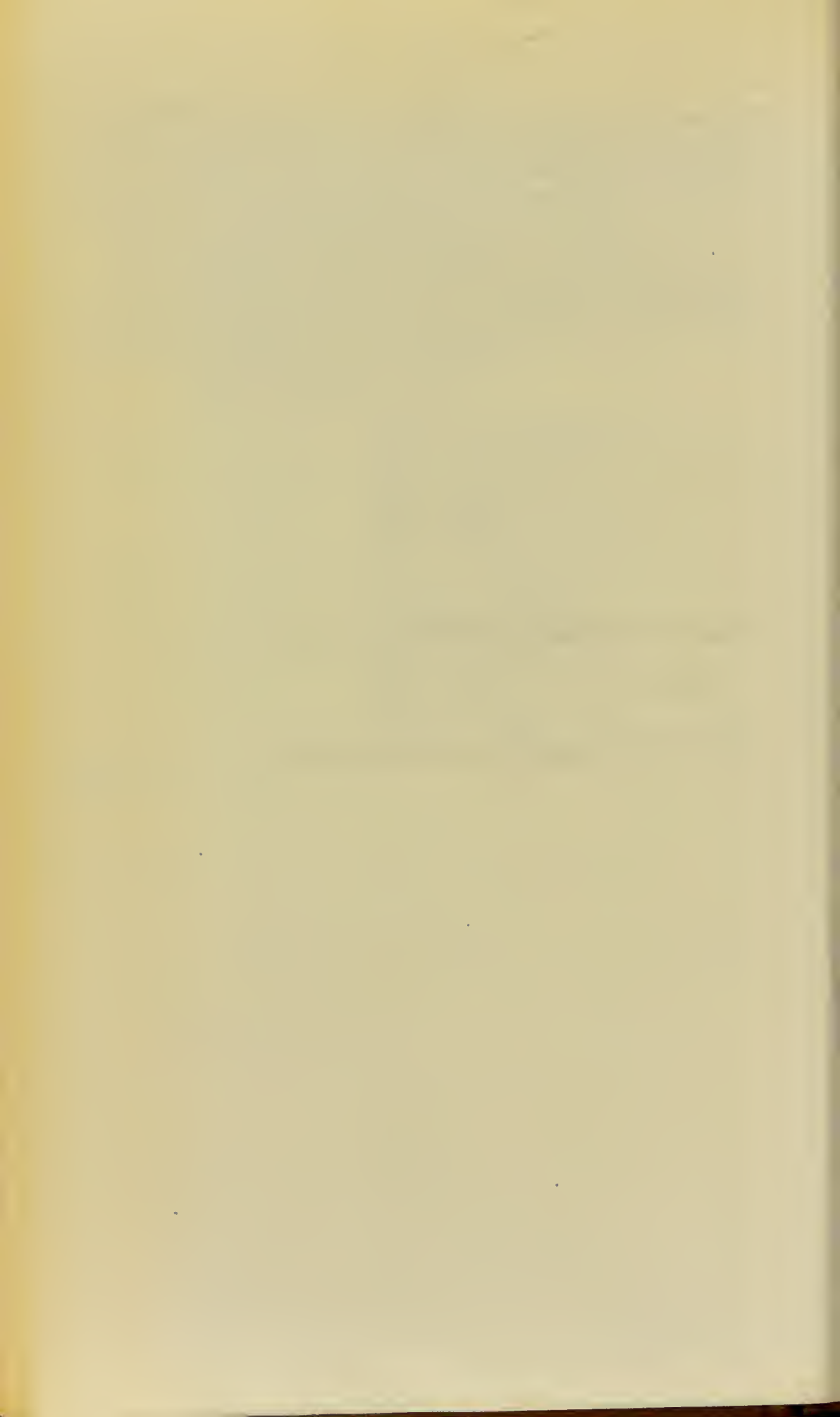


**No. 11.**

Names of Associate Members. 4 pp.

(June 26, 1861.)

Included in Document 74.

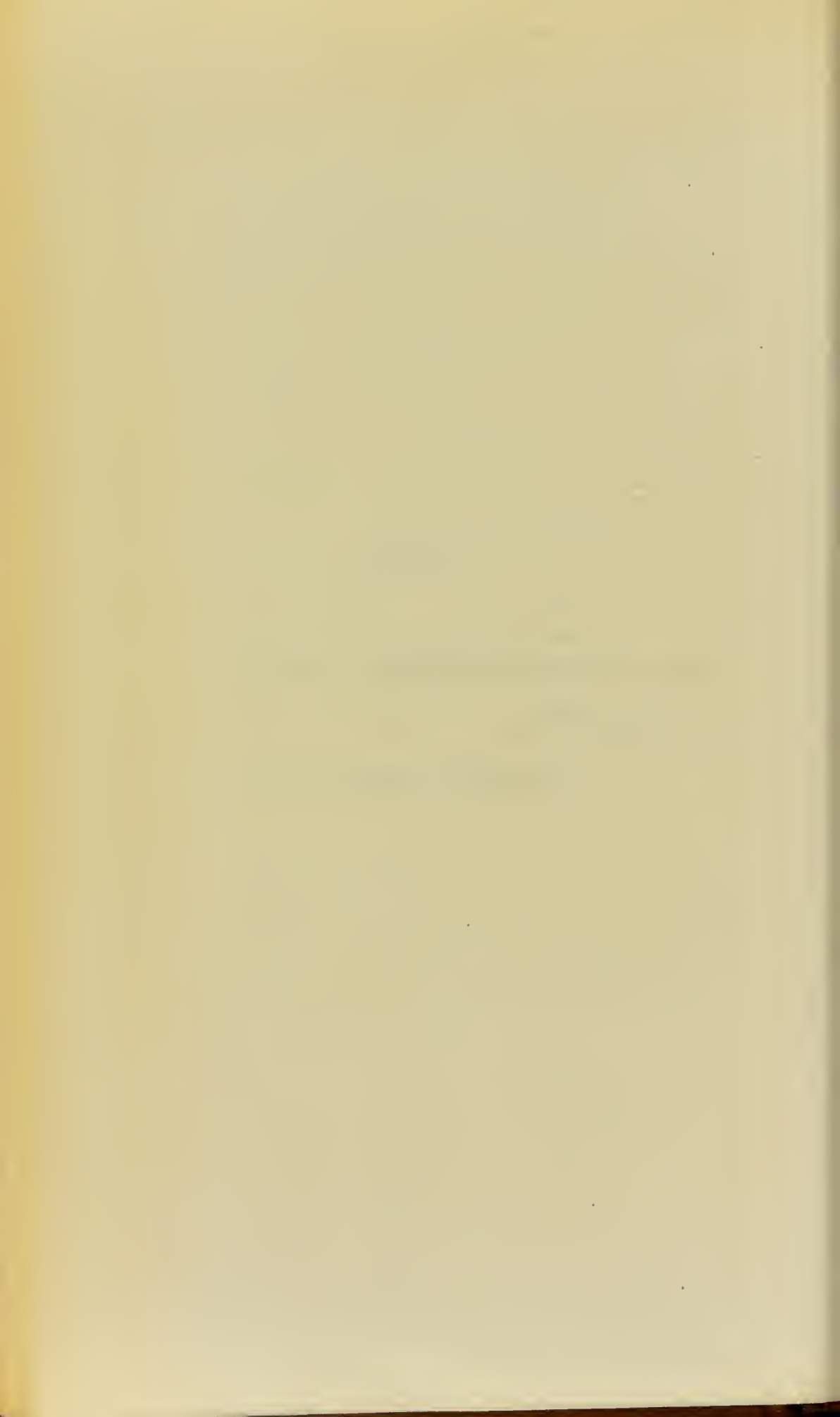


No. 12.

Names of Associate Members. 8 pp.

(June 29, 1861.)

Included in Document 74.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 13.

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## ADDRESS OF THE CENTRAL FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The undersigned, associate members of the Sanitary Commission lately appointed by Government to inquire into and provide for the wants of our volunteer regiments now in the field, respectfully recommend this Commission and its most important object to the prompt and liberal support of their fellow-citizens.

Great mortality by disease is an inevitable feature of every war. It invariably exceeds at least four-fold that produced by all other causes.

But our volunteer regiments, made up in a great degree of men and officers utterly without knowledge or experience as to the remedies and precautions which the case requires, are exposed to the greatest and most pressing danger from this source. The present defective state of the camps and quarters generally as to ventilation, police, drainage, and other sanitary provisions, and of a very large portion of the men in point of cleanliness, clothing and shoes, the want of proper arrangements for furnishing well cooked food and wholesome water, furnish ground for the most serious alarm. Predictions are confidently made that (without prompt and energetic remedial measures) a very considerable proportion of our volunteer forces will fall victims to disease before the end of the present season.

If these predictions should be unhappily verified (and they come from sources entitled to the highest respect) we are in imminent danger of a disaster, which could hardly be exceeded in its effects on public credit and on individual prosperity, by defeat in a great battle.

To meet this danger (which can be met and fully remedied) the Sanitary Commission has been appointed. Its members



serve gratuitously, but call on their fellow-citizens for means to enable them to do their work. They decline applying to Congress for funds for reasons which we consider satisfactory.

They propose, among other things, to place an agent of intelligence, activity, and scientific education, specially acquainted with the laws of hygiene, in every camp or center of military operations, to remedy at once the defects and abuses that exist in most of them. If they can be furnished with means to do this within twenty days, they expect to save the nation at least twenty thousand lives.

Members of the Commission are already personally engaged, both at Cairo and Washington, in organizing a sanitary system for the camps at those points.

The undersigned earnestly urge on the public the importance of sustaining the Commission by prompt and liberal action.

Every day is of the utmost importance, and every dollar applied to the protection of life at this time will save the community from much larger expenditure, or from humiliation and defeat at no distant period.

On behalf of the Committee.


JOHN A. STEVENS, Chairman *pro tem*.

CHAS. E. STRONG, Secretary.

R. H. McCURDY,  
WM. F. CARY,  
PETER COOPER,  
MORRIS KETCHUM,  
SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,  
J. P. GIRAUD FOSTER.  
SAML. D. BABCOCK,  
WM. V. BRADY,  
H. D. ALDRICH,  
GEORGE OPDYKE,

JOSEPH LAWRENCE,  
J. D. JONES,  
T. TILESTON,  
JOHN J. CISCO,  
JOHN E. WILLIAMS.  
F. S. WINSTON,  
U. HENDRICKS,  
HENRY CHAUNCEY, Jr.  
ROBT. B. MINTURN,  
JAS. W. BEEKMAN,

JONATHAN STURGES.

 Contributions can be sent to either of the above, or to George T. Strong, Treasurer, No. 68 Wall street, New York.

**No. 14.**

Directions to Army Surgeons on Field of Battle.

12 pp.

G. J. GUTHRIE, F. R. S.,  
Surg. British Army.

Subsequently published as Letter B of the Medical and  
Surgical Monographs.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 15.

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## LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL FINANCIAL COMMITTEE, IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, *July 9*, 1861.

TO HON. SAMUEL B. RUGGLES, CHRISTOPHER R. ROBERT, ROBERT B. MINTURN, GEORGE OPDYKE, JONATHAN STURGES, MORRIS KETCHUM, WILLIAM A. BOOTH, DAVID HOADLEY, J. P. GIRAUD FOSTER, and CHARLES E. STRONG, members of the Executive Committee of the Central Financial Committee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

GENTLEMEN—On returning from a tour of inspection of our troops in the West, I hear with the liveliest satisfaction that the thoughtful, business men of New York, associated with other patriotic individuals throughout the country, have taken in hand the pecuniary interests of “The Sanitary Commission,” and are devising ways and means of supplying it with money—the true and only means of strength and efficiency. Could I transfer to your hearts and minds the rich experience of the last fortnight passed in the camps of the West, you would need nothing further to animate you to the most earnest, immediate, and unwearied efforts to provide our Commission with money—the only thing it now lacks to give it a benignant power to diminish and control the malignant influence that hang darkly round our troops, and threaten to make out of the most precious portion of our whole population another “noble Army of Martyrs!” Money! money! promptly and liberally expended in supplying our officers and men with the instructions, the warnings, and the aids

which their inexperienced and unfurnished condition demands, and which only an association like our own—of an extraordinary character, unhampered by routine, and with special rights and privileges granted by the Government, with express reference to the exigencies of this exceptional case—can hope to impart, with promptness enough to secure the end.

Money is the indispensable condition of our success, and the only one now wanting.

Consider the prospects of 250,000 troops, chiefly volunteers, gathered not only from the out-door, but still more from the in-door occupations of life; farmers, clerks, students, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, accustomed, for the most part, to regularity of life, and those comforts of home which, above any recorded experience, bless our own prosperous land and benignant institutions; consider those men, used to the tender providence of mothers, wives, and sisters, to varied and well prepared food, separate and commodious homes, moderate toil, to careful medical supervision in all their ailments—consider these men, many of them not yet hardened into the bone of rugged manhood, suddenly precipitated by unexpected events into the field of war, at the very season of the greatest heat, transferred to climates to which they are unwonted, driven to the use of food and water to which they are not accustomed, living in crowded barracks and tents, sleeping on the bare earth, broken of rest, called on to bear arms six and eight hours a day, to make rapid marches over rough roads in July and August, wearing their thick uniforms and carrying heavy knapsacks on their backs—and what can be looked for, but men falling by the dozen in the ranks from sheer exhaustion, hundreds prostrated with relaxing disorders, and, finally, thousands suddenly swept off by camp diseases, the result of irregularity of life, exposure, filth, heat and inability to take care of themselves under such novel conditions. If you add the reflection that the brave and worthy officers who command these men are, from the very nature of the case, wholly inexperienced in camp life, that they are usually no more than the social equals of those they



are set over, that the excellent and devoted medical men selected to watch over our volunteers are equally unaccustomed to the field and to the military hospital, that their commissaries and quartermasters have been summoned from civil life, and that our whole military array, with so small an exception as not to be worth noting, is the product of a rare necessity, extemporized almost as miraculously as the armed men that sprang from the teeth that Cadmus sowed, you will at once feel how inevitable must be the defects, the friction, the mistakes, the delays, the dreadful consequences to health and life attending the very collection and existence of such a body of troops, so officered and so provided for.

Can anything but the energetic interposition of a body of persons devoting themselves to the special work of furnishing condensed experience to officers and men diligently, attending the camps, bringing instantly to headquarters the warnings of scientific and practical instruction, relieving surgeons, commissaries, and quartermasters of their embarrassing want of knowledge how, in the shortest manner, to relieve their official necessities, establishing a quick connection between the volunteers starting under State patronage, and sadly tried to understand how their relations are changed upon passing under United States control, and the General Government, who can alone relieve their wants.

My recent experience in the West has confirmed all my expectations of the feasibility of such a service, and removed every doubt which others had raised, in regard to the cheerful acceptance on the part of officers and surgeons, of this extraordinary invention. I went in some little anxiety as to the welcome I might receive as the envoy of that mixed body, scientific, medical, military, and civil, the Sanitary Commission. But I found my way prepared before me. Tidings of the appointment of the Commission had already spread far and wide. Orders for our cordial reception had providently gone forth from the War Department. From the highest to the lowest officials the most generous courtesy, the most willing co-operation, the most grateful sympathy, flowed without any interruption from a jealous etiquette or an

imperilled dignity. The officers of the Regular Army were just as kind and cordial as those of the Volunteers, and I am now sure that none of the difficulties anticipated from a conflict of powers, are at all likely to arise with a reasonable discretion on our part. Indeed, no averted eye or cold shoulder, either from a medical or military official, chilled my heart, in a visit extended to 20,000 troops, to twenty hospitals, to hundreds of medical gentlemen, and yet I spared no warning, no remonstrance, no earnest words of entreaty, made necessary by what I found defective in the camp-police, the hospital arrangements, the inexperience of officers. Plain, honest, earnest, direct words, kindly and sympathizingly spoken, were the only weapons found necessary, besides the governmental authority to utter them. This was indispensable, and it was a great boon to possess it.

I cannot here spread out the ample details which I proceed to Washington this evening to lay before the Sanitary Commission and the Government, as materials towards a correct judgment and immediate action. The general impression, however, which my visit to Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, Camp McClellan, at Cairo, Camp Pope, at Alton, and other smaller collections of Western troops made upon me, I do earnestly desire at once to communicate.

A nobler, manlier, a more intelligent, earnest, and valuable body of troops was never gathered on the earth's surface, than the 20,000 men I saw in these camps! They are fully equal to the best of our Eastern troops in clothing and equipments, and better than that, their equals in moral force, and directness and seriousness of purpose. I have visited them in their tents and barracks, hastily of course; seen them in the ranks, witnessed their evolutions, and marked their drill; messed with the men and with their officers; conversed freely with hundreds in the hospitals, which now, all told, hold perhaps near a thousand of the 20,000, who are more or less seriously ill; but sick or well, in camp or on parade, I have seen only one spirit—a profound love of country, a solemn sense of the necessity of this war, a willingness to die in defence of the sacred interests at stake, with a most assured sense that God

was behind and victory before them ! Since the earliest and best days of the war of the reformation no such spirit has stirred soldiers in the field as that which now animates our troops. Nor were so many priceless lives ever so freely offered for an end so devotedly held to be worth all it can cost. The perils of the actual battle-field are nothing to such men ; the injuries their open enemies can do them, almost not worth thinking of ; but will malaria, fever, pestilence—irrational and viewless enemies—be as little dangerous ? No ! It is before these inglorious and deadly foes that our brave boys will flinch ; before their unseen weapons that they will fall ! Their generous and self-devoted officers are likely to be the first to suffer. They share the hardships, they more than share the labor and exposure of their commands. They have the best purposes. But they know not yet how to control the diet, the personal habits, the ventilation and police of their quarters and camps. They are studying war *tactics*, intent on making *soldiers* ; they rashly assume that intelligent men know how to take care of themselves ; and they are already finding camp dysentery seizing their regiments with a most threatening grasp. The most striking difference is already apparent in camps and troops, according as attention is given or denied to the character of the water used, the situation of the camp with reference to the prevailing winds, and to the regulation of sinks and the cleansing of tents and quarters. Two regiments, separated by a quarter of a mile only, contained, in one camp not a dozen sick men ; in the other, two hundred and fifty men more or less ill with the dysenteric diarrhœa, and all because one was on a plain with decent well-water at hand, the other in a wood, with a wretched puddle of black ditch-water as the only resource for drinking and cooking ! Do you ask, will medical men and officers, too, stand with folded arms and see this go on without immediate and energetic remonstrance and action ? They will, I reply, under some provision of military etiquette, or some governmental obstacle—which it requires the boldness and decision of a



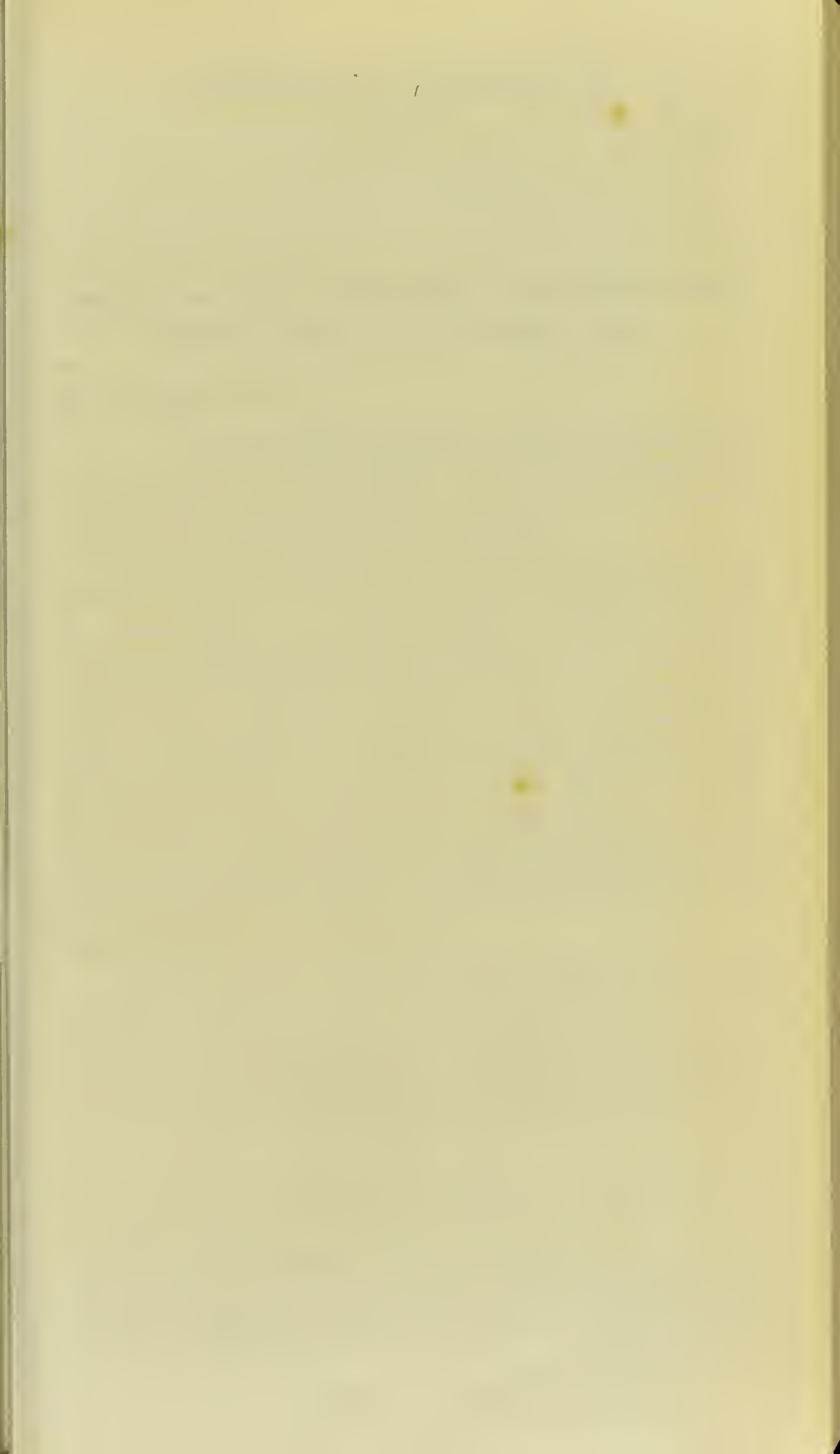
power in confidential relations with the War Department to put aside. We possess this power.

But, gentlemen, I must spare you and the public and myself any further details. I am confident I have said enough to stimulate your utmost energies in supplying us with the means of immediately sending efficient men, experts in sanitary matters, into every camp and fortress, and of keeping them there, under our direction, and fortified with all the authority of our Commission, to warn, instruct, and befriend our officers and men, co-operating with the noble physicians who have so largely volunteered in this war, in preventing all the disease that can be prevented by sanitary science, and in assuaging and mitigating all that must inevitably visit our troops. You, with the response which the public will give your honored names, must place us in a position of moral independence, by enabling us to dispense with all pecuniary support from the Government. The Government has given us what is far more important, its sanction and its authority. We seek from sources that you command the material aid, which at your hands we can receive without loss of moral power and position with the country and the Army. Thanking you, in advance, in the name of the Army, the Government, and the Commission, for any labors and sacrifices you may make in our behalf,

I remain, gentlemen, your obliged friend and servant,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

*President of the Sanitary Commission.*







# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 16.

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## APPEAL OF THE EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

*To our Fellow-Citizens :*

The Committee, addressed in the preceding letter from Dr. BELLOWS, the President of the Sanitary Commission, earnestly entreat your immediate and hearty co-operation in the noble undertaking it so ably advocates.

Never before, in the history of human benevolence, did a gracious Providence vouchsafe an opportunity for doing good on such a scale ; to so great a number ; in so short a time ; and with comparatively so little money. Of the immense array of three hundred thousand men now in arms in our defence—to be swelled, if necessary, to five hundred thousand,—the experienced military and medical members of the Sanitary Commission declare that *one-fifth*, if not one-fourth, may be saved by proper care, who must otherwise perish. Reducing the results of individual action to a form still more precise, they estimate that *every dollar* honestly and judiciously expended in sanitary measure, will save at least *one soldier's life*.

Cannot a city like ours, find forty or fifty, or even sixty thousand dollars, to save a like number of the sons, the brothers, the friends, the fellow-countrymen now gone to battle for the very purpose of rebuilding its own broken fortunes, of restoring, in fullest measure, its former prosperity?

Fellow-citizens: We cannot afford that any one of our brave defenders shall needlessly perish. All our interests, commercial, fiscal, political and moral, are crying aloud for a speedy termination of this great national conflict. In such a struggle, it is madness to waste a single hour, still more a single life. Most of all, should we avoid the ruinous delay of slowly replacing in the wasted camp, the tens of thousands

which our neglect may thoughtlessly leave to die, almost within our sight.

Men and women of New York! We beg you to awake to instant action. Death is already in the breeze. Disease, insidious and inevitable, is now stealing through the camps, on scorching plain, in midnight damp, menacing our dearest treasure—the very flower of the nation's youth. You surely will not permit them thus ingloriously to perish. In the name of humanity and patriotism—in the name alike of justice and manly generosity, bidding us save them who stake their lives in saving us—in the name of the honored ancestors, who fought for the land we live in—in the name of the Blessed Being, the friend on earth of the sick and the suffering, we now commit this holy cause to your willing hearts, your helping hands; with our earnest assurance that, whatever you do will be doubly welcome, if done at once.

SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,  
CHRISTOPHER R. ROBERT,  
ROBERT B. MINTURN,  
GEORGE OPDYKE,  
JONATHAN STURGES,  
MORRIS KETCHUM,  
WILLIAM A. BOOTH,  
DAVID HOADLEY,  
J. P. GIRAUD FOSTER,  
CHARLES E. STRONG,

Members of the Executive Committee  
of the Central Financial Committee  
U. S. Sanitary Association.

*New York, July 13, 1861.*

*Contributions may be sent to any member of this Committee, at his place of business, or to their Treasurer, GEORGE S. COE, Esq., of the American Exchange Bank, cor. Broadway and Cedar Street.*

*Weekly reports are made to the Committee by GEORGE T. STRONG, Esq., (a member and the Treasurer of the Sanitary Commission,) of all its engagements, expenditures and appointments.*

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 17.

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## REPORT OF A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

OF THE

## Camps of a Portion of the Volunteer Forces

NEAR WASHINGTON.

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WASHINGTON, *July 9, 1861.*

TO THE SANITARY COMMISSION :

GENTLEMEN—Your Resident Secretary has inspected twenty of the volunteer camps during the last ten days. Of most of these his examination has been cursory, his object being to acquire some knowledge of the ordinary and average condition of the force, to enable him the better to direct subsequent inquiry, rather than to personally make an exact survey of the condition of each regiment. Of some few, however, his examination has been thorough, while from others he has received reports of inspections made under his instructions, with a view to obtain precise information. Considerable confidence can therefore be placed in the general conclusions as to matters of fact, which will be expressed. The camps of the Rhode Islanders, and of the 71st and 12th New York militia have not been visited, because it has been understood that their condition was exceptional, and no time could be spared from more general duties for the purpose.

The Resident Secretary has also endeavored to make himself acquainted with the character of the supplies furnished, and with the manner of their distribution.

Having been accompanied in most of his visits by Dr. Harris, the Resident Secretary will omit, as far as practicable, observations on the distinctly medical condition of the forces, presuming that Dr. Harris, on his return from Fort Monroe, will present a report on this topic.



## SITUATION AND DRAINAGE.

The camps, generally, are favorably situated as to natural surface drainage. In many cases, not the slightest artificial drainage has been arranged; in others, surface-drains have been dug on one or two sides of a tent, or a line of tents, but an outlet entirely neglected, and this, sometimes, where an hour's labor of a man would have formed one. The drains are consequently ineffective. A complete system of drains, such as should have been laid out and made in the very hour the tents were pitched, can scarcely be found in any camp. In consequence of this neglect, during a recent sudden heavy rain at night, it is reported that water stood two inches deep in the tents of many camps. In respect of drainage by filtration, the quality of the soil and subsoil varies too much to allow any general statement to be made.

The camps are generally on open ground, but some of them in the shade of woods, and the latter seem generally considered to be the more fortunate sites. Looking to the health of the men, this is unquestionably a grave error, of which evidence abounds. It is an advantage, however, to have a shaded place for drill near the camp, as is sometimes the case with those on the open ground.

The tents are placed much closer together than they should be; closer than is usual in camps of regulars, unless under special circumstances.

The site of the camps is selected by an officer of the quartermaster's department, not by the regimental officers.

Night-soil has been recently deposited in large quantity within a short distance of several of the camps, and between them and the town. This has occurred because the scavengers have been unable to pass the lines of sentries at night. Immediately on learning this, a note was addressed by the Secretary to the Mayor of the city, and a communication obtained with the health officer, who readily promised that the practice should be avoided. The use of cheap disinfectants was recommended to him to be applied to the night-soil already deposited near the camps.



## MALARIA.

There have been but few cases of intermittent fever found; three in one regiment is the largest number; this camp was situated near a pond.

## SUN-STROKE.

A few cases have occurred in almost every encampment. The men are generally provided with "havelocks," which are worn or dispensed with according to the caprice of individuals. Even at the dress parades in most regiments, each man wears a havelock or not, at his pleasure. The havelocks, as generally made, are of little use. The article worn by the Indian troops, pictures of which probably suggested that termed in America the havelock, is quilted and stiff, resting on the shoulders, and thus kept open, clear of the ears, and allowing a free circulation of air beneath. Men who have been drinking freely of water when on a march, or at drill, are the most frequent sufferers from sun-stroke.

## WATER.

Water, of good quality, is generally found in abundance near each camp.

## TENTS.

The most common tent is a poor affair, being similar in form to the French *tent d'abri*, but without its advantage of portability. The common wall-tent is also largely used, and is much better. During the day the walls are triced up, and the tent is well ventilated; but at night, if the walls are lifted, or the flaps opened, the drift of the dew-laden wind across the men sleeping on the ground is felt to be severely cold. In most cases, therefore—the officers paying, apparently, no attention to the matter—the tents are closed as tightly as possible at night, and are crowded full of sleepers, six to eight, and sometimes ten men being found in each. Of course, they breathe a most vitiated atmosphere. Those who are most sensitive to this are sometimes forced out of the tent; and in a camp visited at night, the Secretary discovered that many men were sleeping on the ground, without any

protection from dew or malarious influences. This had not been regarded, and apparently was unknown to the regimental officers. The wall tent, when provided, as it is sometimes found to be, with large square openings at the end, with flaps to button over them when necessary, is the most comfortable tent for summer. This, or some other opening for ventilation, well above the ground, should be provided in all cases. The "Sibley," is, however, much the best tent for all purposes, and it is to be hoped that it will rapidly displace all others. It is easily ventilated, and at the same time supplies the best protection to its occupants during inclement weather.

The men generally sleep on a single blanket spread upon the ground. The regiments sent by the New York Union Defence Committee, and some few others, are provided with india-rubber tent floors or blankets, and, in some cases, the tents are furnished with plank floors. These, which would otherwise seem to be best for a fixed camp, afford an unfortunate facility for the accumulation of unwholesome rubbish. Where there are no floors, loose straw is sometimes used, and in other cases straw in sacks.

#### SINKS.

In most cases the only sink is merely a straight trench, some thirty feet long, unprovided with a pole or rail; the edges are filthy, and the stench exceedingly offensive; the easy expedient of daily turning fresh earth into the trench being often neglected. In one case, men with diarrhœa complained that they had been made sick to vomiting by the incomplete arrangement and filthy condition of the sink. Often the sink is too near the camp. In many regiments the discipline is so lax that the men avoid the use of the sinks, and the whole neighborhood is rendered filthy and pestilential. From the ammoniacal odor frequently perceptible in some camps, it is obvious that the men are allowed to void their urine, during the night, at least, wherever convenient.

#### PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.

In but few cases are the soldiers obliged to regard any rules of personal cleanliness. Their clothing is shamefully dirty,

and they are often lousy. Although access is easily had to running water, but few instances are known where any part of the force is daily marched, as a part of the camp routine, to bathe. A careful daily inspection of the state of the men's clothing is probably made in few, if any, regiments. Whatever good qualities they possess in other respects, so far from being good soldiers in this, which has been long held the elementary condition of good soldiers, our volunteers are, in many cases, really much dirtier than it can be believed they have been accustomed to be in their civil life; and it is obvious that neither they nor their officers comprehend in the slightest their duty in this particular, nor the danger and inconvenience they are bringing upon themselves by its neglect. The clothing of the men, from top to toe, is almost daily saturated with sweat and packed with dust, and to all appearance, no attempt is generally made to remove this, even superficially. Each man should be provided with a switch or small cat with which to whip his clothing, and a brush to remove the dust after it has been brought to the surface. It is suggested that these and other instruments of cleanliness should be provided to the men, as in the French service, and that they should be required to carry them and exhibit them at inspection, as a part of the Government property for which they are responsible.

#### CAMP POLICE.

There is often hardly a pretence of performing the ordinary police duties of a military camp. The men take food into their tents, and its crumbs and morsels are to be seen covered with flies in the inside, in the intervening spaces, and even in the camp-streets, which seldom appear well swept. Often the drains are so neglected, that they become receptacles for rubbish. Within the tents a musty smell is often perceptible. It is suggested that the Commission should recommend that orders be given that during the summer all camps should be shifted at least once in ten days, unless imperative military reasons forbid, and that twice a week all tents should be struck, turned inside out and shaken, all bedding and blankets



shaken, the site of tents swept, and, if practicable, sprinkled with a disinfecting fluid or lightly strewn with powdered charcoal or plaster of paris. It is believed that some very detailed instructions in camp-police duties may with great advantage be furnished the officers.

#### CLOTHING.

The volunteers have generally an abundance of clothing, such as it is, though there are a few who have not a change of shirts. The dress of the majority is inappropriate, unbecoming, uncomfortable, and not easily kept in a condition consonant with health. It is generally much inferior, in every desirable respect, to the clothing of the regulars, while it has cost more than theirs. Considering all the conditions and contingencies of the business in which the volunteers are about to engage, and in view of the many advantages of simplifying all the machinery of the army as much as possible, it may be best for the Commission to recommend that volunteers for ordinary infantry service be hereafter required to adopt the regulation uniform. This could be furnished by the Government under bonds to those recruiting the regiments, or to the State governments called upon or undertaking to supply them, at a much less price than, judging from recent experience, any other tolerable uniforms can be procured by special contract. It may also be best to recommend the early substitution of the regulation garments for those now worn by the volunteers; these being already, in many instances, in bad condition. A New York soldier has been seen going on duty in his drawers and overcoat, his body-coat and pantaloons being quite worn to shreds. It is possible that some modification of the present regulation uniform may be made with advantage. If so, this should be in the direction of greater simplicity of parts, greater independence of the baggage wagon, and more grace of appearance. The most conspicuous part of the present uniform is the hat. It is said to be convenient and healthful. The common kepi of the volunteer is pert, unsubstantial, ungraceful, uncomfortable, and dangerous. Covered with what is called the havelock, it is

excessively conspicuous—quite unfit for scouting or skirmishing duty. It interferes with the hearing, and, through the common neglect of duty of the volunteer officers, it is allowed to be worn without uniformity, and becomes very untidy. The regulation hat, as it stands, is better than any other military head-dress to be now seen in Washington. Yet its heavy and inelegant character might, it is hoped, be somewhat modified without lessening its essential value. A slight enlargement of the brim, a more tapering form to the crown, and the introduction of some color, possibly making the whole hat of a neutral tint, with a complementary band or plume, would certainly effect an æsthetic improvement. A different kind of shirt might economically displace the present one, which is coarse and harsh in quality. The regulation shoes and socks are far superior to those generally worn by the volunteers, but might perhaps be better. A very slight improvement in the quality of these articles would justify a large additional cost. The French trappings of the soldier, of the latest pattern, seem to be more substantial and convenient than those of the United States regular pattern, better calculated to preserve health and a certain degree of comfort under circumstances which most try the strength and *morale* of the soldier. If this is the case, Government should not for a moment hesitate to adopt them. Our volunteers are generally men unaccustomed to the necessary hardships of the soldier, suffering from loose discipline, and the rashness, improvidence, ignorance, and neglect of extemporized officers. They need, therefore, far more than regular soldiers, every advantage which it is possible for science and art to offer, for bearing about with them, in the easiest possible manner, means of sustaining their strength, which shall be proof against accidents, and available under the greatest variety of circumstances. To simplify what is to be carried as far as possible, and yet to make the soldier more than ever independent of fortune, must be the purpose of all suggestions for a change. No improvement is so great as that which lessens the necessary recurrence of the soldier to the baggage train and the hospital. Whatever does this must almost certainly be economical.



## FOOD.

*De gustibus non disputandum.* No two reports agree, and the Secretary, having given more time to the study of the subject than to all others during the last week, confesses himself to be yet bewildered by the different statements of matters of fact, and the different judgments on matters of opinion which he has constantly encountered.

Where there is not a most incredible ignorance, incapacity, or neglect on the part of the officers, the regiments are supplied with an over-abundance of the raw material of food, excellent of its kind.

To all appearance, the Commissary Department is pursuing a generous, wise, and liberal course, dispensing with the usual forms and checks, anticipating and overlooking the neglect of the volunteer officers, and supplying a larger variety of food than is usually served to regulars, or than can be drawn for, as a right, under the army regulations. This very laxity, however, has its disadvantages, and that regiments should sometimes meet with considerable hardship from irregularity of supplies is a matter of course. It is, indeed, wonderful that such a large body of men should be so fully and regularly supplied as is our army, and the Commission need hardly concern itself with the exceptional instances. It is doubtful if any army of the same size ever fared as well as to substantial articles of food, for months together. The raw materials furnished are generally atrociously cooked and wickedly wasted. In consequence of waste, complaint is sometimes made of inadequate supplies, but this is remarkably rare, proving that with care the supply would in all cases be over-abundant.

The question remains whether the food is of the best kind that could be afforded, and in sufficient variety? There are grave objections to the introduction of almost any new article into the dietary of the army; simplicity, and facility of transport and of preservation being necessary conditions not only of each article in itself, but of all the ration in the aggregate. To increase the number of articles, is to increase the duty already heavily overburdening the Subsistence Department,

and there are great and insurmountable difficulties in enlarging the force of the Subsistence Department with the rapidity required to provide for all the contingencies of the heterogeneous host, with its incapable officers, suddenly dependent on that department for the sustenance of life. It is a great thing to accomplish the provisioning of this host with the simplest and most easily procured and transported food, by any possible means. It is a still greater thing to have this done honestly and thoroughly well, guarding against scandalous frauds and great and disgusting wastes. Every addition to the dietary of the army increases the difficulty of this task.

This must not be forgotten in the consideration of the thousand and one improvements on the ration which have found and will continue to find public advocacy, and some of which are being now especially urged on the Commission as worthy of its recommendation. It is daily made obvious that no intelligent civilian deems the present regulation ration a suitable and sufficient one for the volunteers, called from the north to the south in the heat of summer; but rash and arbitrary changes might easily be made which would be extremely perilous.

For a well-established force with but a small proportion of recruits, and these chiefly accustomed to a poor diet, marching or stationed on a distant frontier, with the advantage of a well-regulated sutler's establishment, a well-managed company fund, and with the guidance and inspection of officers who understand their business, and must attend to it for their own safety's sake, if for no better reason, our army ration is excellent. We have had a rich government, a small army, and an abundance of educated officers, who have patiently studied to effect improvements in its administration. In every line, the regulations show careful observation and reflection, and the most thorough, honorable, and conscientious effort to bring about that which was best for our army, in the average circumstances under which it has been organized, officered, and placed hitherto. The only criticism which can be made against the regulations, general, and special, seems to the Secretary to be, that in the effort to

guard against fraud and waste, and to impose restrictions and checks upon extravagance, sufficient discretion to vary from the ordinary rules, when desirable, has not been had, and habits of routine and respect for precedent have been too much expected and encouraged. Even this is made with some doubt of there being present occasion for it, and the Secretary is inclined to believe that little is needed to effect all that is practicable, further than to strengthen the hands and give increased confidence to those now having the largest responsibilities in this matter.

Clear, fat, salt pork is the backbone of the army ration. The authorized quantity of beef is larger than that of pork, but beef is liable to more contingencies of failure than pork. Fat pork of excellent quality, with beans and coffee, seldom fails. And under frontier hardships, in contrast to the ordinary diet of the savage, or even of the pioneer settler, these furnish not a bad stand-by, especially for cold weather. Beans boiled five hours with salt pork make a soup or porridge, savory, exceedingly nutritious, and wholesome for most men; add a copious allowance of hot coffee, and men in good health coming in wet, cold, and weary from a scout or from guard duty, can hardly be supplied with anything better. And it is for men in such circumstances that our military officers, whose soul is in their business, have had to think, first and last. Satisfy those who have been used hardest, upon whose pluck and cheerfulness and strength the most has depended, and there need be little care for the rest.

But here, in the midst of summer, we have an army of unacclimated men, drawn chiefly from dense communities, differing among themselves greatly in their habits, but nearly all accustomed to a large variety of food.

Fat, salt pork is not proper food for them, and the department has provided the alternative, beef, generally of the most excellent quality, in abundant quantity. If the men have too much salt food here at present, it is the fault of their regimental officers. But as the army moves southward, will it not often happen that, owing to accidental causes, one or the other of these articles, beef or salt pork, will fail?



If so, then, as far as meat is concerned, the diet must be either exclusively of pork or exclusively of beef. It is worth while to consider whether arrangements cannot be immediately made for a large supply of fresh mutton. Could not, at least, desiccated mutton as well as desiccated beef, and desiccated beef soup, be procured in a short time in large quantities? If so, no time should be lost in establishing this guard against the danger of failure of better provisions.

As to vegetables, there is not probably a single surgeon attached to a volunteer regiment in the vicinity of Washington, who will not testify that the troops are now suffering in health for a want of vegetables. And whatever may be the character of some of the volunteer surgeons, there are, among them, gentlemen of as high professional reputation as any in the army. Directly or indirectly, the prevailing diarrhœa is, in almost every case, attributed to this cause. A case of scurvy in the troops about Washington is already reported.\* The volunteer army is generally believed to be in great danger of decimation by scurvy and dysentery. It must be admitted that there is great difficulty in procuring and transporting a large daily supply of green vegetables in good order, and in serving them out systematically for eighty thousand men. It appears to have been not possible, up to this time, to obtain even the necessary local means of transport for this purpose. Are these difficulties to increase as the army is moved into the southern wilderness? In any case this seems really the most important point in which it is possible for the energy and enterprise and capital of the Government to be directed for the protection of the army.

A liberal allowance of fresh potatoes, when these can be procured, and, at all events, of desiccated potatoes, mixed vegetables, and dried fruits, which can be supplied with as much certainty as pork, would add vastly to the cheerfulness of the army, and thus to its strength and health, even if it were not certain to do so more directly. These articles should be issued *by regulation*, and not according to the judgment or caprice of the commanders or quartermasters. It appears

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\* A number are reported at the west.

to the Secretary that the addition of pepper to the ration is practicable and desirable. The practicability of adding butter is less certain, but it is believed that under most circumstances for this army, there is no difficulty of consequence in the way of it, except the general difficulty of complicating and increasing the excessive duty of the subsistence department.

#### COMPANY FUND.

The "company fund" arrangement of the regulars scarcely exists, except where by chance some vigorous old army officer is in charge, and is not to be expected to answer any good purpose during the summer with the volunteers. It is useless, therefore, to point to it as a practicable means of supplying their wants.

#### SUTLERS.

Some of the camps have sutlers; most have not. At one of the sutler's tents, contrary to the articles of war as well as the army regulations, spirits were furnished the men without restriction. This regiment being composed in large part of Continental Europeans, it was alleged that no harm had resulted, there being but little drunkenness, and but little use of the guard-house. This is also asserted with reference to all the German regiments, at one of which a considerable number of men were found sitting at a long table, under a bower which they had themselves constructed, drinking larger beer, and singing. The convivial recreation thus afforded the men was deemed by the commanding officer and by the surgeon to have a favorable effect on the health of the regiment, in which there was found less diarrhœa than at any other examined. Beer is supplied to all the Germans by sutlers, who dispose of it for a claim on the wages of the men at pay-day, as usual with sutlers. Though much less than in most armies, there is a good deal of drunkenness among the soldiers, who are generally granted leave of absence to visit the town in much too large numbers, for too long a time, and too frequently. It is suggested that the Commission apply to headquarters for an order to prevent leave of absence from camp being granted except to a limited number of any regiment at a time, and only within certain hours of



the day. A further act of the military government, to close the dram-shops and bars during the hours allowed for soldiers to be out of their camps, and requiring the police guard of the city to take all soldiers without a pass or not accompanied by an officer to the guard-house, would unquestionable have a most favorable influence on the health of the army of Washington.

For the soldiers in camp, a proper enforcement of the army regulations, and a proper use of the discretion allowed the surgeons, will supply to the men all the spirits, and all the restrictions upon the use of spirits, which it is best they should have. Whether a moderate quantity of malt liquor might not with advantage be added to the ration is possibly a question worthy of consideration by the Commission. In the few cases where it has been found to be habitually used, the testimony of the regimental surgeons is, so far as it goes, conclusive, as to its wholesome influence. (See statement of Professor Hamilton, at the end of this Report.)

A complaint of excessive thirst is frequently heard. A number of men have stated that they drank six times as much water as they ever did before. "To much meat," or rather a want of sufficient vegetables, is probably the chief reason of this. "To much coffee" is another common complaint, meaning, evidently, that too much is expected of coffee, or that, without drinking more coffee than is thought to be wholesome, the appetite at breakfast is not satisfied.

It is a custom to drill the men in most regiments for two hours immediately after the break of day, and before they have had any nourishment. Many suffer much inconvenience from this. Must it not necessarily be harmful in a region at all subject to malarious influences?

#### CAMP COOKING.

Mr. Sanderson's report on camp cooking will be presented to the Commission, and the Secretary refrains from any observations at present on this most important subject. It is enough to say, that in no respect are the volunteers in so much need of instruction, advice, orders, and assistance, as in this. Perhaps the best way of meeting the difficulty would be at once

to endeavor to obtain the services of sea-cooks from shipping ports, and attach them, one to a company, throughout the army.

The report of Dr. Harris will leave it unnecessary for the Resident Secretary to place his observations on camp and general hospitals at this time before the Commission. The subject of hospital supplies will need immediate attention, and when it comes up, he has certain measures to propose.

The Secretary must say, in conclusion, that he is compelled to believe that it is now hardly possible to place the volunteer army in a good defensive condition against the pestilential influences by which it must soon be surrounded. No general orders calculated to strengthen the guard against their approach can be immediately enforced with the necessary rigor. The captains, especially, have in general not the faintest comprehension of their proper responsibility; and if they could be made to understand, they could not be made to perform the part which properly belongs to them in any purely military effort to this end. To somewhat mitigate the result is all that the Commission can hope to do. If the Commission and its agents could be at once clothed with some administrative powers, as well as exercise advisory functions, far more could be done than will otherwise be the case. To say, "you had better do so and so," will, nine times out of ten, accomplish nothing; to report a filthy sink, or a lazy captain, or roguish sutler, to headquarters, while grand movements are pending, and efficient leaders are scarce, and the value of their minutes is as the value of years with most men, will accomplish nothing. If it were possible, without interfering with discipline, for the Commission and its agents to have a claim upon the commander of a camp for the means at his disposal for abating a nuisance within it, much could be done. This may be thought too large a power of interference to grant to civilians. But it must not be forgotten that the volunteers are mainly officered by men who a few weeks ago were civilians, and who, in their eagerness to learn "tactics," have hardly yet given any study to other duties. At least there should be the right to require, where the advice of the Commission

is disregarded for military reasons, that those reasons should be given in writing by the commanding officer to his military superior.

Looking still to preventive measures, and neglecting in this report the whole question of the treatment of the sick and wounded, the Secretary must ask how is advice to be given so as to be at all effective? Much may be done by the distribution of manuals, by the reiteration of standing orders, and by giving more detailed and elementary instructions than are afforded in the army regulations; but it is believed that the mass of the volunteer officers cannot be reached by such means.

The Resident Secretary, in order to be able to report the condition of the volunteer forces in this vicinity and at Fort Monroe with more exactness, to the Commission, at this session, has, within a few days, accepted the voluntary services of two competent persons, who have undertaken to visit camps, and, under his instructions, to examine their condition with all practicable thoroughness. The printed questions of the Commission's Document, No. 8, have furnished the basis of inquiry. Something has been added by the Secretary to these, and each inspector is instructed to exercise his judgment in going further, but is especially enjoined to examine with his own eyes, and by smelling and tasting, whatever requires it. The value of such an investigation, in furnishing information for the Commission to act upon, can best be learned by a perusal of some of the reports made by the inspectors. But the Secretary is inclined to believe that the greatest value will soon consist, if it does not already, in the fact, that while aiding the inspector, the attention of the regimental officers is for the first time gravely and specifically called to the sources of danger which they have allowed to be established in their camps, and which they cannot account for without acknowledging a neglect of their own, and to the information and suggestions for improvement which they will incidentally receive from the inspector. Thus far, the utmost willingness to exhibit the actual condition of their camp has been asserted, and, apparently, in good faith, by all officers

called upon. The Secretary is at present of the opinion that more is to be effected in the way of prevention by this agency than by any other means at the immediate command of the Commission. The business of such inspectors, if many should be employed, will need to be carefully systematized; they must be thoroughly instructed, and should be provided with printed advice upon various subjects of camp life and military duty, to be furnished as occasion may offer to officers of different grades, to cooks, and to privates. Thus presenting themselves to make official inquiry only, they will, without special effort or intention, really be the best possible missionaries of sanitary science to the army. If there should be 300,000 men in the field—and it is thought that each regiment should be visited at least once a week, on an average—twenty men of special qualifications for the duty would probably be needed as travelling inspectors. The two last reports of the inspector who has been engaged in this vicinity, together with one from the inspector at Fort Monroe, are laid before the Commission, that the character of this service may be the better understood.



**No. 17<sup>2</sup>.**

Rules for Preserving the Health of Soldiers. 16 pp.

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

(July 13, 1861.)

Subsequently published as Letter C of the Medical and  
Surgical Monographs.



**No. 18.**

No Document of this number published.





**No. 19.**

Camp Inspection Return—Questions. 16 pp.

Included in Document 19<sup>a</sup>.

" The two surgeons, father and son, are both Germans. The former can hardly understand a word of English, and must have great difficulty in making himself understood to many members of the regiment, one-half of whom are either Irish or Americans.

There seems some reason to doubt the competency of the surgeons of this regiment. I confess, however, that there was nothing found in the condition of the men decidedly to prove improper treatment. The number of sick was not large in comparison with that of other regiments. Six had been sent to the hospital at Washington; nine remained in the camp hospital; 60 or 70 were off duty in consequence of various ailments, and there had been no death in camp.

The general manner and conversation of the two surgeons were such as to make me distrustful of their intelligence and acquirements. My suspicion of their incompetency, however, is due chiefly to the information of \* \* \* \*, who earnestly urged me to report what he stated. He was, however, unwilling that his name should be used, unless he should be guaranteed against all consequences likely to affect his position.

13. No provision for transporting the sick and wounded, save a single field-stretcher.

14. A supply of medicines from the United States Government, but complained of by the surgeon as not being of the right sort. There was some doubt expressed by one of the officers of the regiment, as to whether the surgeon was supplied with all the requisite surgical instruments. The latter, however, declared that he was fully provided at his own expense.

16. The common or A tents in use, with six and often seven occupants to each. They were arranged too closely together, being not more than a foot apart. Many of them had bowers of dried bushes in front as a protection against the heat of the sun. This, however, appeared to intercept the air, and to be unfavorable to proper cleanliness and ventilation. All were trenched, and some floored.

17. Privies at a good distance, properly constructed, and not offensive to those in camp. On inspection, however, it was discovered that the earth was not thrown in regularly, and no disinfectants used.

18. The hospital was provided with a sink especially for its patients. The men are said to bathe about once a week, but under no systematic arrangement. Many are unprovided with a change of under clothing. There was, however, a good provision for washing, in respect to laundresses, there being several women to each company. I saw more women in and about this camp than I have seen in all the others together. The colonel had his wife, one lieutenant his, many of the soldiers theirs, &c.

19. No re-vaccination.

20. No varioloid or small-pox.

22. Parasites said to be rare.

23. No deaths.

24. No systematic amusements.

25. No deodorizers or disinfectants used.

26. Army rations. Complaint made of the frequency of salt pork, it being served sometimes four days in succession.

27. No fresh vegetables supplied by the Government, or by the men at their own expense.

28. No dried fruits.
29. Fresh meat two or three times a week.
30. Water from springs; good.
31. Hospital stores abundant; but utensils wanted, bed pans and cooking vessels.
32. No spirit ration ever issued. The sutler, however, sells spirits and lager-beer *ad libitum*. The \* \* \* of the regiment informed me that drunkenness was so prevalent that 25 or 30 men were sent daily to the guard-house in consequence.
33. Two cooks to each company appointed by the captain.
34. The apparatus for cooking is a simple shallow trench, or two lines of brick. No lids to the cooking utensils, not even to the coffee-boilers.
35. Good bread from the city, but eaten "fresh, and often hot." Complaint of occasional meagre supply.
36. Uniform good, but two warm for the season. Each man had been supplied by the United States Government with a single pair of linen trousers.
37. Flannel underclothing worn, but often without change.
39. No india-rubber cloths. The men lie either on straw, hay, or bare ground.
40. The horses picketed at a good distance outside of the camp, and the manure removed.
43. The tents drained by means of deep trenches.

ROBERT TOMES.

JULY 5, 1861.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*, 690 men; Col. \* \* \* \* \*  
 25 days in Camp.

Site upon a high hill.

1. Drainage from inclination of surface, good; subsoil clayey. Exposed to the influences of a creek and dam, but no bad effects observed.
2. Selected for salubrity and military convenience.
6. No examination before enlistment. Partial inspection since, according to general order, and eighteen rejected, among whom was a man in an advanced state of pulmonary consumption.
11. The most perfect hospital organization yet observed—provided with a steward and two matrons, where female tenderness and care were evident in the kindly treatment and good order of the patients.
12. A surgeon and assistant surgeon, appointed in the usual way of the volunteers, through influence of colonel, and subsequently confirmed by a medical board.
13. One ambulance supplied by \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*, and one horse-littler by the Government. The latter badly constructed, and pronounced by the surgeon to be useless. It is made for two horses, with a shaft in front and one behind. The irregular action of the animals and their necessary restlessness would appear to justify the surgeon's condemnation.
14. A deficiency of surgical instruments, there being but one amputating case and one pocket case for the two surgeons, supplied by the United States Government.

15. No sun-stroke, and no endemic disease.
16. Common tents, mostly floored. Eight occupants to each.
17. Trenches dug for privies, but no cross-bars for support; very offensive; no earth thrown in, and much too near camp. No disinfectants used.
18. Frequent bathing, but infrequent washing of underclothes.
19. Vaccination in progress. I saw the surgeon thus employed.
20. One case of small-pox sent to eruptive hospital of Washington.
21. Thirty-eight cases of measles. Mild, and no serious sequelæ observed.
22. Some cases of diarrhœa and dysentery. Body lice on some of the men. Tincture of larkspur used, but found ineffectual; probably of bad quality.
23. One death from drowning.
24. No systematic amusements, but men cheerful.
25. No disinfectants used, and not demanded by the surgeon, on the score that the bulk required would impede marching.
26. Ordinary army rations. No complaint of quality and quantity.
27. No vegetables, except those supplied by the men at their own expense. I saw cabbage and potatoes in use, here and there.
- 27, *b*. The surgeon has no anti-scorbutics, but would wish to have them, as he attributes the diarrhœas and dysenteries to scorbutic influences.
28. No dried fruits.
29. Fresh meat three or four times a week.
30. Water good, from springs.
31. Medicines and hospital stores good.
32. No spirit ration issued, and the sutler discharged for selling liquor.
- 33, 34. In the cooking department all is rude. A *good captain* has, however, made an attempt towards improvement. He has provided his company with an ordinary house cooking-stove, but he makes the mistake of changing his cooks, who are selected from among the men. This company, however, is comparatively much better off than any of the others, and by its saving of rations and acquired handiness was enabled to provide a banquet on the Fourth of July, at the expense of the members, to which the whole regiment was invited. This company's street and tents give evidence, by extreme cleanliness and well-ordered condition, of the excellent superintendence of the captain, to whose high character the surgeon bore strong testimony. The culinary utensils being without covers, were complained of by the cooks. Three cooks to each company.
35. Bread good, and from the city.
36. Uniform *worthless*.
37. Good and abundant underclothing.
38. Shoes good.
39. Blankets and overcoats bad. No india-rubber cloths.
42. Refuse food sold.
43. Tents surrounded with trenches.

ROBERT TONES. .



1. The situation of the camp is upon a fine plain, intersected by occasional ravines, terminating in salt meadows and sea-shore. The natural drainage excellent. The camp is perhaps one-fourth of a mile from the beach, and between it and the water there is a comfortable house, which affords good hospital accommodations, and quarters for quartermaster and chaplain.

2. Both military and sanitary considerations seem to have been well answered in the selection.

7. The regiment arrived here with 851—the present number, 787. No order has been received from headquarters for a re-examination. The number of men sent home for physical disability is thirteen.

10. No orders have been received in reference to sanitary condition of the men.

11. A regimental hospital has been organized, with a steward and one nurse permanently detailed. The appearance of the rooms and patients do not indicate an energetic administration. The men lie on mattresses upon the floor, with no linen, no sheets, or pillow-cases. They lie in the same clothing, even undergarments, with which they left New York. I believe there is no substitution of hospital comforts for the usual rations. Fortunately, the number of regular hospital inmates is small.

12. One surgeon and an assistant are attached to the regiment, who were appointed by a medical commission at Albany.

13. The regiment has only one ambulance—an excellent one—and one field stretcher, besides those attached to the ambulance.

14. A medicine chest and a hospital case were furnished by the State of New York. A surgical knapsack is needed, as are many other important appliances.

16. The encampment is perfectly free from any unpleasant odor. The cooking places are neat, and no garbage is seen. Surface drains have been cut in every direction necessary to remove all surface water, except in one or two places, which were to-day being attended to. The tents are all floored, and the boards are kept clean, while the clothing, knapsacks, arms, &c., are arranged so as to present an appearance of tidiness and comfort. The officers are supplied with a tent called the "Crimean." Eight wedge tents, three "Sibley," and one "Crimean," are the supply for a company. Ten men occupy one of the wedge tents, and are undoubtedly too crowded. There is no order as to the closing of tents at night. They are closed or not according to the inclinations of the men. They sometimes sleep on the ground. The officers seem quite awake to the necessity of camp police.

17. The sinks for officers and men are formed at such a distance from camp as to be unobjectionable. The one belonging to officers seems to have been properly attended to by a fresh layer of soil daily thrown upon the surface. The one for men has been prepared with reference to such case, but seems not to have been quite properly attended to. However, the order was promptly given in my presence to secure the requisite attention. The men are strictly confined to the use of the sinks. A sink for garbage is also prepared and used.

18. There is excellent bathing upon the beach, which the men generally are inclined to enjoy; but the adjutant informed me that as all are not so, the acting colonel has issued orders to form the companies into squads for the purpose, so that each man will be compelled to wash at least twice a week. The men look bright and well, and seem to be in excellent health and spirits.

19. The men have all been re-vaccinated.
  20. There has been no varioloid or small-pox.
  21. There have been three cases of measles.
  22. There have been no cases of intermittent fever. The men have been somewhat troubled with vermin.
  23. There have been seven deaths, all either in battle or from wounds.
  24. No attention seems to have been given to providing amusements for the men. Before the weather became so warm they sometimes played at "foot ball."
  25. No disinfectants have been used or found necessary.
  26. The regular army ration is received from the quartermaster of the post, and is of excellent quality.
  27. Fresh vegetables have not been supplied to any amount. They cannot at present be obtained in this vicinity. No case of scurvy has occurred. The system of the company fund has not been carried out, except in a few cases. Some of the companies live well, and always have plenty, while others are always in want. It is not uncommon for a company to be entirely out of certain articles a day or two, at the end of the ten days for which the rations are issued. Others have a plentiful supply. The reason of the difference is in the varying skill of those who have charge of the cooking and the administration of the stores after they reach the company. The captains are, it is believed, mainly in fault, either from want of ability or from indolence; although it is easy to perceive that one faithful and industrious officer may not be able to prevent the effect of a want of those qualities among those under him. I wish still to pursue this line of investigation, both in this and other regiments. One thing seems pretty certain in this case, there is no want of promptness or faithfulness in the quartermaster's department, and no deficiency in the quantity or quality of the food furnished. There have been no extra issues of anti-scorbutics.
  28. Dried fruits have not been issued.
  29. Fresh meat is supplied three times in ten days.
  30. The water is quite good, but not entirely free from qualities injurious or disturbing when taken in large quantities.
  32. No spirit ration is issued.
  33. The cooks are sometimes hired by the companies; in other cases they are detailed from the ranks.
  34. The apparatus used for cooking is the open fire beneath kettles suspended by hooks from an iron bar.
  35. The soft bread, which is excellent, is supplied every other day from the post bakery.
  36. The men were supplied with one suit of clothing from the State of New York, but with no change of underclothing.
  37. The regiment has never been supplied with a change of underclothing. Not only in the case of this regiment but of all in the neighborhood, the want of underclothing is likely to be productive of great suffering and loss of efficiency.
  38. This regiment is well supplied with overcoats, blankets, and rubber blankets.
  39. The average age of the men is about twenty-five years. There are but few over thirty, and only two less than nineteen.
- I have ascertained that the men of this regiment have not yet been paid for their services from the time they were accepted by the State of New York until

they were mustered into the service of the United States. This is a great shame and hardship, as they have yet received no wages from Government, and many of them have no means with which to procure any comforts at their own expense.

The chaplain and other officers are receiving great numbers of letters from friends of men in the ranks enquiring about them, and from many others on the *business* of the *writers*, all of which, though pre-paid, require stamps upon the answers. These gentlemen not receiving their pay from the State or the Government, are having their pockets drained of their scanty supply of money in this thoughtless manner.

The "havelocks" seem to be of little use; they are soon laid aside. A supply of white cotton gloves is desirable, to protect the musket from rust, from being handled with moist hands.

But of all the sufferings of our brave volunteers, the one most terrible seems to me that of being confined in hospital with the same filthy clothing that they have worn through all their hot marches, rolled in the blankets that have served them since their enrollment.

The poor fellows of \* \* \* have not had even blankets since June 1st. About 400 blankets are wanted there.

E. J. DUNNING.

---

*Memorandum of Professor F. H. Hamilton, Surgeon of 31st Regiment,  
N. Y. S. V.*

We have about 850 men. Two companies are composed mostly of Germans, men accustomed to out-door work; three quarters of the remainder were out-door laborers. We are situated on Park Heights, with an abundance of pure water and of air. No malaria. Since we encamped at this place, a period of about ten days, we have had no vegetables, except once or twice a few onions. The meats have been excellent, but generally salt. We have now a daily report of about fifty cases of diarrhoea and dysentery, which are steadily increasing. The camp is perfectly clean, and the latrines are covered daily. We have no drills between 9 or 10 o'clock a. m. and 5 p. m. The Germans who drink "lager" furnish the fewest cases of diarrhoea. Indeed, those who can get lager are seldom reported. I allow one quarter cask of lager to every 24 men per day. The men subscribe for it under directions of the captains. The Germans are accustomed to drink much more per day, but this answers the medical purpose which I have in view. It regulates the bowels, prevents constipation, and becomes in this way a valuable substitute for vegetables. I encourage all the men to take it moderately, but most of them have no money to pay for it.

Whiskey, brandy, and the wines, unless I except clarets, vin ordinaire, &c., are, I think, pernicious.

FRANK H. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon 31st Regt., N. Y. S. V.*





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 19a.

## CAMP INSPECTION RETURN.

*Abbreviations.*—Y, "Yes;" N, "No;" n. e., "not exact;" Q? "So reported, but Inspector doubts if correctly." The answers are supposed to express the fact as believed by the Inspector, unless otherwise indicated. Where one subdivision of a question is answered, the others may be disregarded.

*References.*—Reference is made to two editions of the Army Regulations: that published pursuant to the order of the Secretary of War, dated May 1, 1891, and that pursuant to the order of August 10, 1891, the latter being designated as "revised."

### I. DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF BODY INSPECTED.

Name and locality of camp? .....	.....
State?.....	.....
Military department?.....	.....
Date of conclusion of inspection?.....	.....
Name of inspector?.....	.....
Designation of the body inspected?.....	.....
whose brigade? .....	.....
whose division? .....	.....
Name of its commanding officer? .....	.....
Where recruited? Specifying counties, (if practicable).....	.....
Predominating nativity? .....	.....
American? .....	.....
Irish?.....	.....
German?.....	.....
Foreign, not Irish or German?.....	.....
When recruiting began? .....	.....
When mustered into U. States service?.....	.....



12. At what places stationed since, and how long at each? \*.....
13. How strong when mustered in?.....
14. Present strength?.....

## II. CHARACTER OF CAMP SITE.

15. Who selected present camp site?.....
16. Had the site been occupied shortly before for the same purpose?.....
- If so, date when last evacuated? .....
17. Was the selection influenced by military considerations which might overrule sanitary?.....
18. Situation of camp :
- upon a hill-top?.....
- “ “ hill-side?.....
- “ “ hill-foot?.....
- in a glen?.....
- on a plain?.....
- slightly elevated?.....
19. Is the site unshaded?.....
- “ “ in the shade of woods?.....
20. Is it sheltered by higher land? †.....
- “ “ “ wood? †.....
21. From what quarter is the prevailing wind?.....
22. As to malaria, what is the reputation of the site?.....
- unknown?.....
- good?.....
- bad?.....
- very bad?.....
23. Local conditions presumptive of malaria :
- near a swamp?.....
- near a pond?.....

\* Stations of less than one week may be disregarded if the list would otherwise be too long.

† If so, show on what side by letters, as S. W.

## Local conditions presumptive of malaria :

near a river?.....

near a river delta?.....

## Soil of camp site :

sandy?.....

loose gravel?.....

loose loam?.....

firm loam?.....

agglomerated pebbles, gravel,  
or sand, (hardpan).....

impervious clay?.....

## Sub-soil :

sandy?.....

loose gravel?.....

loose loam?.....

firm loam? .....

agglomerated pebbles, gravel,  
or sand, (hardpan) .....

impervious clay?.....

Is the site favorable for surface drain-  
age? (as to inclination) .....

## III. ARRANGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CAMP.

Is the camp arranged mainly in accordance with the "army regulations?" .....

more crowded?.....

more open?.....

How far apart are the tents in the rows?.....

How is the artificial drainage?.....

systematic and complete?.....

partial, and with no general  
system?.....

entirely neglected?.....

Are the drains mainly straight?.....

Are the drains very sinuous? .....

About how deep are the drains generally?.....

32. About how wide at the top are the drains  
generally?.....
33. Are the drains kept clean?.....
- “ “ foul or clogged?.....
34. Is there a good outlet for all the drains?.....
35. Condition of the camp streets:
- very clean?.....
- moderately clean?.....
- dirty or neglected?.....
36. Edges of tents and spaces between tents:
- very clean?.....
- moderately clean?.....
- neglected and littered?.....

#### IV. CHARACTER, VENTILATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF TENTS.

37. In what sort of tents are the privates  
mostly?.....
- Sibley, or conical, with ventila-  
tor at top?.....
- regulation wall-tents?.....
- regulation “servants,” “com-  
mon,” or “wedge-shape?”.....
- If not of regulation pattern,  
state form and size?.....
38. Average number of men to each tent?.....
39. Is the ventilation of the tents looked  
after by any officer at night?.....
40. Are the tents struck on certain days for  
the purpose of a thorough cleansing  
and airing?.....
- if so, how often?.....

#### V. BEDDING AND CLOTHING.

41. On what do the men sleep?.....
- rubber blankets?.....
- wooden tent-floor?.....

\* Thus: “6 × 9 × (9 high.)”

On what do the men sleep:	
straw, hay, or leaves? .....	.....
blankets laid on the bare ground? .....	.....
Do the men generally make any change of clothing at night? .....	.....
Are the men supplied with two shirts each? .....	.....
Have they blankets? .....	.....
1 each? .....	.....
2 each? .....	.....
Of what quality are they? .....	.....
regular U. S. A.? .....	.....
not regular, but good? .....	.....
not regular, poor? .....	.....
Have they overcoats? .....	.....
how many are without? .....	.....
Is the overcoat of fair quality and in good condition? .....	.....
Is the body coat or jacket of fair quality and in good condition? .....	.....
Are the trowsers of fair quality and in good condition? .....	.....
Is the regiment clothed in the regulation uniform? .....	.....
Is it equally neat and serviceable? .....	.....
Do they take pride in it? .....	.....
What the color of the coat? .....	.....
"     "     "     trowsers? .....	.....
Are they required to regularly wash their underclothing? .....	.....
if so, how often? .....	.....
Are they required to remove dust from and otherwise cleanse their other clothing? .....	.....
Is a careful and systematic inspection with reference to these matters undertaken? .....	.....
by whom? .....	.....
how often? .....	.....
Do you think it efficient, (judging by the appearance of the men?) .....	.....



## VI. PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 54. Do the men bathe frequently? .....   | ..... |
| 55. Are they required to bathe under the eye<br>of an officer? .....             | ..... |
| if so, how often each man?.....  | ..... |
| 56. Does each man (as a rule) wash his head,<br>neck, and feet once a day? ..... | ..... |
| 57. Is evidence of neglect of this looked for<br>at inspection? .....            | ..... |
| 58. Are the men infested with vermin?.....                                       | ..... |
| 59. If so, has any application been made to<br>remove them? .....                | ..... |

## VII. CLEANLINESS OF CAMP.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 60. Do you observe scraps of food, bones, or<br>rubbish collected in the edges of tents? ..... | ..... |
| in the drains? .....   | ..... |
| in the camp streets? .....   | ..... |
| between the tents? .....   | ..... |
| 61. Are refuse slops and food disposed of<br>systematically, so as not to be offensive? .....  | ..... |
| 62. Do you observe odors of decay in the<br>camp? .....  | ..... |
| 63. Do the men void their urine within the<br>camp? .....                                      | ..... |
| at night? .....  | ..... |
| both day and night? .....  | ..... |
| 64. How far is the men's privy from the tents<br>of the body of the camp, (in paces?) .....    | ..... |
| 65. Is there a sufficient pit or trench for the<br>purpose? .....                              | ..... |
| 66. Is it provided with a sitting rail? .....  | ..... |
| 67. Is it provided with a screen? .....  | ..... |
| 68. Is earth regularly thrown in it daily? .....   | ..... |
| 69. Are disinfectants used in it? .....  | ..... |
| 70. Are the men forbidden to ease themselves<br>elsewhere? .....                               | ..... |
| 71. Do you find this prohibition to have been<br>enforced? .....                               | ..... |

Is there a separate sink for officers?.....	.....
how far from nearest sleeping tents?.....	.....
At what distance from the tents are the cattle or horses picketed? .....	.....
What number?.....	.....
Is their dung daily removed, or so placed or covered as to be unobnoxious? .....	.....

### VIII. WATER, SOURCE AND QUALITY.

From what source is water procured?....	.....
surface springs?.....	.....
wells?.....	.....
stream? .....	.....
pond?.....	.....
ditch, slough, or puddle?.....	.....
Is the water clear? .....	.....
Does it seem to be of unwholesome quality? .....	.....
Has it a reputation of being of unwhole- some quality?.....	.....

### IX. RATIONS AND COOKING.

Do the captains make requisitions for the rations of their companies?*. .....	.....
Do the captains generally look after the supplies of their companies, to see that they are not used too rapidly, and that they are properly served and cooked?..	.....
Is any officer required to examine and taste the food of the men before it is served at any meal, or is this done generally by the captains or other offi- cers, either by order or voluntarily?†...	.....
Are the rations found sufficient in quantity?.....	.....
Are they generally considered good in quality, each of its kind? If not, mention what is alleged to be poor?...	.....
Are you satisfied of the justness of this allegation!.....	.....
About how often is fresh meat served?.....	.....

\* See Form 13, page 223, Army Regulations, (page 267 "Revised.")

† See Army Regulations, ¶ 111, page 15, (¶ 116, page 23, "Revised.")

86. About how often are fresh vegetables?.....  
     desiccated vegetables?.....  
     desiccated meats or soups?.....  
     dried fruits?.....
87. Is the cooking in most instances done with  
     portable stoves?.....  
     with earth flues?.....  
     in trenches?.....  
     on the unbroken ground?.....
88. Is "the greatest care observed in wash-  
     ing and scouring cooking utensils?"\*..
89. Is most of the food of the regiment pre-  
     pared by cooks who perform that duty  
     regularly? (a) .....  
     or by men taking short terms at  
     it, and who generally have no  
     skill? (b).....
90. How is it probable that the food is gene-  
     rally cooked—well?.....  
     badly? †.....
91. Is the last question answered with the  
     more confidence from personal obser-  
     vation?.....
92. Is tea sometimes drawn in the ration  
     instead of coffee?.....
93. Is fresh bread served?.....
94. Is soft bread served?.....
95. Is it baked in the regiment at a general  
     bakery?.....
96. Is it generally of good quality?.....
961. Have any companies been able to save  
     from their rations?.....

#### X. COMPANY FUND.

97. Has the company fund arrangement †  
     been successfully established in any  
     case?.....  
     with several companies?.....  
     with all?.....

\* Army Regulations, ¶ 113, page 15, (¶ 118, page 23, "Revised.")

† See Army Regulations, ¶ 112, page 15, (¶ 117, page 23, "Revised.")

‡ See Army Regulations, ¶ 197, page 27, (¶ 205, page 36, Revised.)

## XI. SUTLERS.

Is there a regimental sutler?.....	.....
Who appointed him?.....	.....
Are the prices of articles on sale fixed in accordance with the army regula- tions? *.....	.....

## XII. INTOXICATION.

Is ardent spirits sold? †.....	.....
wine or beer?.....	.....
Do the men obtain spirits otherwise? .....	.....
Is there much intoxication?.....	.....
What is about the average daily number of men sent to the guard-house?.....	.....
Are these cases chiefly from intoxica- tion?.....	.....
Are peddlers of eatables or drinks al- lowed access to the men in camp?.....	.....

## XIII. ABSENCES FROM CAMP.

Are the men strictly and effectively kept within the camp, except those having leave of absence?.....	.....
What is the largest number of the men ever allowed to be absent from camp except on duty?.....	.....
What is the ordinary daily number of absences?.....	.....

## XIV. RECREATIONS.

Are the men generally in good spirits?..	.....
Are means systematically used to pro- mote cheerfulness, by games, enter- tainments, &c.? .....	.....
Is there a regimental band?.....	.....
Is it maintained, in any degree, from a fund to which the men contribute?.....	.....
by the officers?.....	.....

\* See ¶ 207, page 28, (¶ 216, page 37, Revised.)

† See Articles of War, art. 29, end of volume of Army Regulations.)



113 <sup>1</sup> . Is there a regimental library?.....	.....
if so, are the books mainly of a religious character?.....	.....
is it maintained by contributions from the men?.....	.....
if no library, is the regiment otherwise tolerably supplied with reading matter? Is there much reading?.....	.....
is target-shooting regularly or frequently practiced? If so, how often does each man have his turn at it?.....	.....

#### XV. BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

114. Are there any provident or mutual ben- efit societies within the regiment?.....	.....
115. Do the men generally save or send home a part of their wages? .....	.....
115 . How are the savings transmitted?.....	.....
by mail or express?.....	.....
by allotment roll?.....	.....

#### XVI. DISCIPLINE.

116. Does the general discipline of the camp appear better or worse than usual?.....	.....
116 <sup>1</sup> . Are the common military signs of dis- cipline punctiliously enforced or prac- ticed, as the salute between men and officers*?.....	.....
116 <sup>2</sup> . Are officers or soldiers on duty allowed to have their coats partially unbut- toned, or otherwise to follow personal inclinations in matters proper to be made uniform and regular?.....	.....
116 <sup>3</sup> . Are the sentries alert and soldier-like in appearance?.....	.....
116 <sup>4</sup> . Is the regiment frequently exercised in difficult field manœuvres? .....	.....
116 <sup>5</sup> . Is the brigade exercised in brigade manœuvres? † .....	.....

\* Army Regulations, ¶ 244—247, page 32; (¶ 254—257, page 41, Revised.)

† A review, or dress parade, or drill in line, is not to be considered as a manœuvre

## XVII. MEDICAL INSPECTION ON ENLISTMENT.

Was there a medical inspection of the men on their enlistment?.....	
If so, state by what official it was made?.....	
Was it thorough?.....	
Has there been any subsequent medical inspection? .....	
If so, state by what official it was made, and when?.....	
Was it thorough?.....	
1. How many rejected on second inspection?.....	
Has every man in the regiment been vaccinated since enlistment?.....	
1. If not, state the number so vaccinated? .....	
the number upon whom existed evidence of previous vaccination?.....	
of these state the number who had been vaccinated more than once?.....	
of primary vaccination, how many were successful?.....	
of re-vaccination, how many were successful?.....	

## XVIII. MEDICAL OFFICERS.

1. Name of surgeon?.....	
When appointed? .....	
By whom?.....	
At whose nomination or suggestion?.....	
Was he previously examined and approved of by a State or other medical board?.....	
superior medical officer?.....	
If so, give the title?.....	
2. What had been the nature of his preparation or previous experience?.....	
where graduated in medicine, and when?.....	
general country medical practice? (a).....	

- general town medical? (b).....
- limited hospital experience? (c).....
- extensive? (d).....
- surgical practice? (e).....
- qualified only as a student? (f).....
- no valuable experience or preparation? (g).....
131. Name of assistant surgeon?.....
132. By whom appointed?.....
133. Qualifications: (Answer by repeating the letter opposite the appropriate suggestion after question 130) .....

### XIX. CAMP HOSPITAL, AMBULANCES, &C.

134. Is a camp hospital organized?.....
135. Non-combatant regimental nurses?.....
- male?.....
- female? .....
- none?.....
136. Is there a moderate supply of medicines?.....
137. What important articles are wanting, if any?.....
138. How long since requisitions have been made for these? .....
139. Are the most essential field instruments possessed?.....
140. What important surgical articles are wanting?.....
141. Is there a regimental ambulance, or more than one? \*.....
- how many two-wheeled ambulances?.....
- how many patients will each accommodate? .....
- how many four-wheeled ambulances?.....
- how many patients will each accommodate? .....

\* Revised Army Regulations, §§ 1295, 1296, p. 289.

Are there any field stretchers? .....	.....
how many? .....	.....
Are there any horse litters? * .....	.....
how many? .....	.....
How long since requisition has been made for any of the above articles which are wanting? .....	.....
Is an ambulance corps organized? .....	.....
Has the ambulance corps been drilled in its duty? .....	.....
Is the large (regulation) hospital tent appropriated to its proper purpose? † .....	.....
Is the regimental hospital in a house, temporary structure, or tent? .....	.....
If in a house or temporary structure, is it fairly adapted to its purpose? .....	.....
Is it fairly well ventilated? .....	.....
If in a tent, is it well drained? .....	.....
Is it well ventilated? .....	.....
Is there a separate sink for hospital patients? .....	.....
Is it well arranged? .....	.....
Is it carefully and adequately deodorized? .....	.....
Are there a few sheets and suitable hospital dresses? .....	.....
Are there any special hospital stores, (delicacies and cordials)? .....	.....

## XX. SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

What are the prevailing diseases? .....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
How many patients from the regiment are now in general hospital? .....	.....
How many patients are in the regimental hospital? .....	.....
How many "sick in quarters?" (slight cases in their own tents). .....	.....
Are there any serious cases in the regimental hospital? .....	.....

\* Revised Army Regulations, ¶ 1298, p. 290.

† In some instances it has been found misused for the colonel's headquarters or a mess-room.



160. If so, has it been impracticable to remove them to the general hospital?.....
161. Are there any contagious or infectious cases?.....
162. Are they kept in a separate tent or house from the others?.....
163. Are the discharges from the latter placed in the privy used by others?.....
164. What has been the daily average number on the sick list during the last two weeks, as by morning reports?.....
- in general hospital?.....
- in regimental hospital?.....
- sick in quarters?.....
165. Have there been any deaths in that time?.....
- how many?.....
- from what causes?.....
166. Are the dead buried near the camp, and at what depth?.....
167. Is the general health of the regiment improving or deteriorating?.....

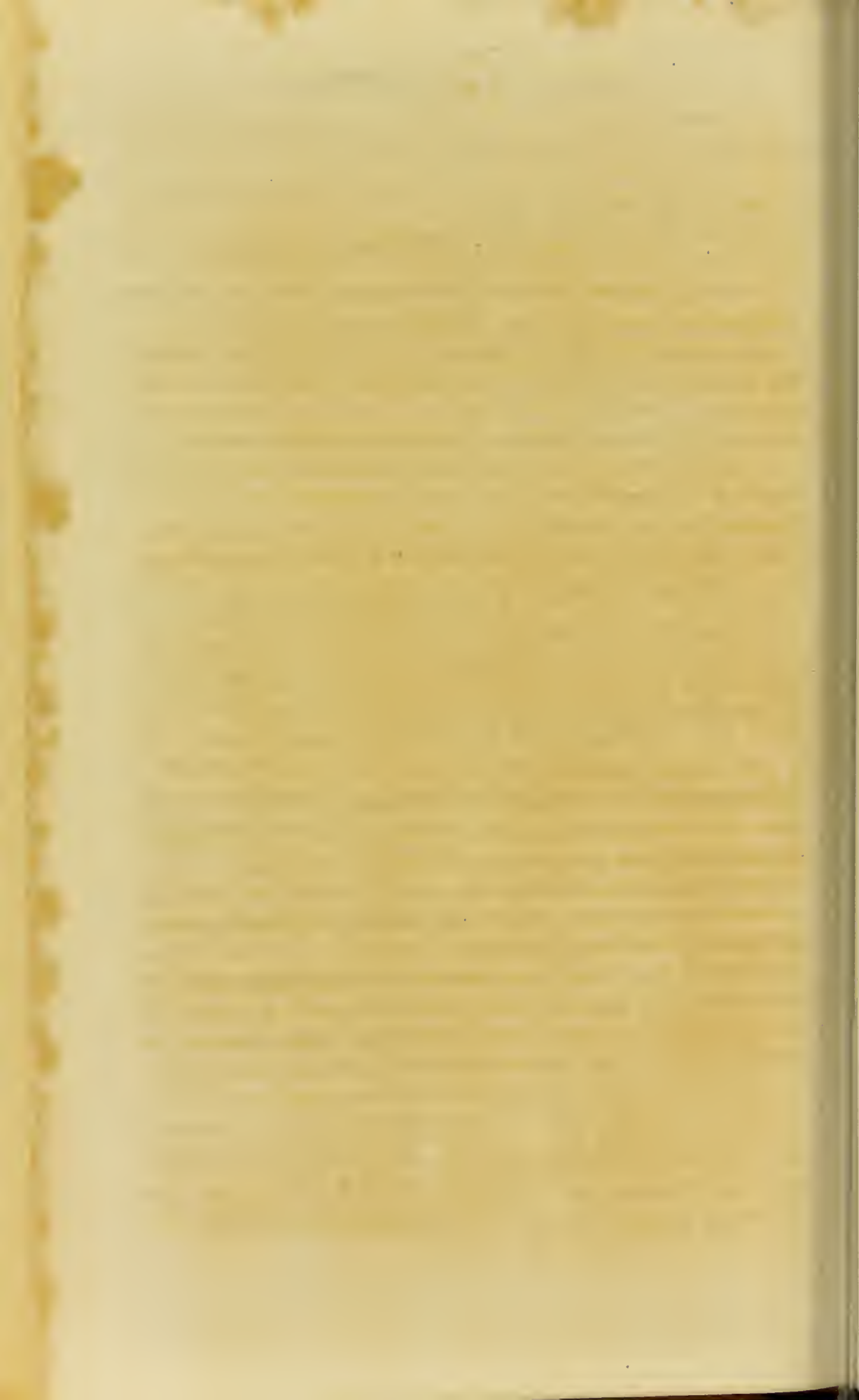
## XXI. PREVENTIVE DUTY OF SURGEON.

168. Does the surgeon understand that he is responsible for all conditions of the camp or regiment unfavorable to health, unless he has warned the commanding officer of them?.....
169. Does the surgeon make a daily inspection of the camp, with reference to its cleanliness?.....
170. Does he inspect the food, and see how the cooking is done?.....
171. Does he report on these matters, and urge remedies upon the company officers, and, when necessary, upon the commanding officer?.....
172. Is anything administered to the well men to guard against the effects of malaria? (Prophylactics).....
173. Is there a drill before breakfast?.....
174. If so, does the surgeon approve of it?.....
175. If not, has he remonstrated against it with the commanding officer?.....
176. What is the length of time the men are on drill daily?.....

## XXII. ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

What is their arm?.....	.....
Have the men confidence in it? .....	.....
Is there any limit placed upon the weight of the knapsack for heavy marching order?.....	.....
If so, what?.....	.....
Is the cartridge-box sustained only by a belt?.....	.....
or, has it the additional support of a shoulder strap? .....	.....
if, by belt alone, what effect has the surgeon observed, if any:*	.....

\* It is alleged to induce hernia.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 20.

OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,  
*Treasury Building, Washington, July 29, 1861.*

At a meeting of the Commission, held this day, the following resolutions were passed unanimously, and ordered to be printed.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, *Res. Sec.*

*Resolutions passed by the Sanitary Commission in Session, Monday, July 29, and ordered to be sent to the President, Heads of the Departments, and to both Houses of Congress.*

*Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission, in their endeavors to promote temperance, cleanliness, and comfort among the troops, have become convinced that the first sanitary law in camp and among soldiers is *military* discipline; and that unless this is vigorously asserted and enforced, it is useless to attempt and impossible to effect, by any secondary means, the great end they propose—which is the health and happiness of the army.

*Resolved*, That looking only to the health and comfort of the troops, it is our profound conviction that any special relaxation of military discipline in favor of volunteer troops, based either upon their supposed unwillingness or inability to endure it, or upon the alleged expectation of the public, is a fallacious policy, and fraught with peril to the lives of the men and the success of the national cause; and that, speaking in the name of the families and the communities from which the volunteers come, and in the name of humanity and religion, we implore that the most thorough system of military discipline be carried out with the officers and men of the volunteer force, as the first and essential condition of their health, comfort, and morality.



*Resolved*, That the health and comfort and efficiency of the men is mainly dependent on the uninterrupted presence, the personal watchfulness, and the rigid authority of the regimental and company officers ; and that all the great defects, whether in the commissariat or in the police of camps, are radically due to the absence of officers from their posts and to the laxity of the discipline to which they are themselves accustomed—a laxity which would never be tolerated among regulars, and which, while tolerated among our soldiers, will make our force a crowd of armed men rather than an army.

*Resolved*, That it is the public conviction of this Commission, that the soldiers themselves, *in their painful experience of the want of leaders and protectors*, would heartily welcome a rigid discipline exerted over their officers and themselves ; that the public would hail with joy the inauguration of a decisive, prompt, and rigid rule, extending alike to officers and men ; and that any despondency or doubt connected with our military and national prospects, or with the health and security of our troops, would disappear with the first indications of rigid order enforced with impartial authority throughout the whole army.

*Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission assure Major General McClellan, in advance, of all the moral support and sympathy of their numerous constituents, and beg him to believe that the humane, the intelligent, the religious, the patriotic, will uphold his hands in every endeavor to communicate a spirit of subordination, fidelity, and obedience to the troops, even by resort, if found necessary, to the utmost rigor of military law, believing that the health, comfort, and efficiency of the army are all united in their dependence on a strict, uniform, and all-pervading military discipline.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 21.

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## A RECORD

OF CERTAIN

### Resolutions of the Sanitary Commission,

Passed in the Second, Third, and Fourth Sessions.

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#### SECOND SESSION.

1. WHEREAS, Instances of great suffering from the exposure of troops arriving at Washington, have come to the knowledge of the Sanitary Commission :

*Resolved*, That the Commission recommend to the War Department to immediately provide temporary accommodations near the railroad station at Washington, for the use of troops arriving and departing.

2. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of the Sanitary Commission be instructed to inquire of the Secretary of the Treasury, whether some system cannot be adopted by which the soldiers can secure their wages, at their option, in gold or silver, or by allotment, to be transmitted to their families, and that they use all diligence in showing the moral bearing of such a measure on the health of the troops, and the comfort and self-respect of their households.

3. *Resolved*, That the existence of many commodious marine hospitals, now very little in use, offers a natural and ready resource for the Government in any lack of military hospital room, and that the conversion of those spare beds to military uses is suggested to the immediate consideration of the United States authorities.

4. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary suggest to the Government the desirableness and practicability of furnishing butter as a ration in place of its equivalent value in other articles at all places where regular and rapid communication by water or rail exists, and that the detail of a plan to this end be drawn up to accompany the suggestion.

5. *Resolved*, That Dr. Harris, Dr. Van Buren, Prof. Gibbs, and Dr. Agnew be a committee to prepare and issue a circular letter to the commanding and medical officers of regiments upon the subject of camp police, and that Dr. Harris be requested to procure for the letter such authorization as may be expedient from the Medical Bureau of the War Department.

## THIRD SESSION.

6. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to call upon the Paymaster General, and ascertain from him if, under existing laws, it is practicable for soldiers generally to remit a portion of their pay in the form of checks to their families at a distance, and if this is not possible, what are the objections understood to exist in the mind of the Paymaster General to the enactment of such a provision; and if it shall appear to the committee that such an arrangement is unprovided for in a proper manner, and that no sufficient objections exist to its being made, that the committee be requested to lay before the Commission the draft of a memorial to Congress on the subject. It was determined that the committee should be the committee of the whole, and it was agreed that at 1½ o'clock p. m., this day, the Commission will call in a body on the Paymaster General with this subject in hand.

7. *Resolved*, That this Commission take immediate measure to procure the introduction of a suitable clause into the army bill, to provide for the establishment or employment of a competent cook in every company in the volunteer regiments.

8. *Resolved*, In view of the mischief done to the physical health of the soldiers of the volunteer regiments by improvident expenditure of their pay; the wants of those dependent on them, who are in danger of becoming a public burden, and creating a vast pauper element in our cities and elsewhere; the danger of the war becoming unpopular in consequence, and the prospect of systematic private speculations in the soldiers' pay:

That the Commission earnestly recommend the passage of a law for the issue of Treasury notes for the payment of volunteers, in sums of five dollars and upwards; and that each soldier and non-commissioned officer receive his pay, in whole or in part, in such Treasury notes, at his option. And in case Congress should consider the above scheme impracticable, then that the Commission earnestly and most respectfully commend the subject of the mode of paying the soldiers to the consideration of Congress, and pray that it will enact such measures as may seem best for the remedy of the evils and dangers above indicated.

9. *Resolved*, That the Commission respectfully and most earnestly recommend to Congress, as an important means of preserving the health of the volunteer regiments, and averting the danger of disease, with which all newly-organized troops are threatened, to make provision by law for the enlistment or selection, in each company, of a cook, in



addition to the detail from the ranks at present provided for. That said cook receive the pay of a musician, and one ration per day, and be a non-combatant.

10. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to open a complaint book, in which shall be entered all violations of the army regulations, and all other abuses reported by the agents of the Commission, or by other responsible authorities, and that such complaints be reported from time to time, in writing, to the General-in-Chief.

11. *Resolved*, That the Commission respectfully suggest to General Mansfield the propriety of an order directing the commanders of forces encamped near the city of Washington, not to grant leave of absence from camp to more than one eighth part of their command on the same day, and to give no leave under which men shall be absent from their camps after the hour of one o'clock p. m., or of such general order as in his judgment may seem best adapted to cure the abuses and irregularities that arise from the too liberal granting of leave of absence; also, that he issue an order forbidding the sale of intoxicating drink in the city of Washington, except by hotels to their boarders, before the hour of one o'clock p. m.

12. *Resolved*, That copies of the reports of the sanitary inspectors appointed by the Commission be communicated to the Governors of the several States to which the regiments respectively belong. It is understood that the Secretary of the Commission may exercise his discretion as to the communication of answers believed to be confidential or specially affecting the character and position of individuals.

13. *Resolved*, That Dr. Van Buren confer with the chief of the commissariat, and communicate to that department the views of this Commission on the subject of the following communication:

SANITARY COMMISSION, *July*, 12, 1861.

TO THE COMMISSARY GENERAL:

SIR: It having come to the knowledge of the Sanitary Commission, from trustworthy sources, that the surgeons of the volunteers are unable to get the rations of the sick commuted by the commissaries, and are, therefore, unable to procure proper food for them, the Sanitary Commission respectfully request of the Commissary Department to take such action as will secure proper attention to regulations by the commissaries, and their rights to the sick.

Respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Resident Secretary.*



14. On motion, it was ordered that the suggestions of the Surgeon General respecting the employment of nurses, as stated in a letter from the Medical Bureau to the Secretary, be carried out by this Commission, and that Miss Dix be informed of the purpose and wish of the Commission on this subject.

15. The following action was taken upon the question of varying and commuting rations :

WHEREAS, The company fund relied upon by the regulars, for varying their rations, is generally unavailable under the circumstances of the volunteer ; therefore it is recommended, that a larger and more varied supply of vegetable food, either fresh or desiccated, be steadily secured to the volunteers by a new regulation in their favor of the army ration ; it is also recommended, that one eighth of a pound of butter be added to the daily ration, between the 1st of October and the 1st of May, and whenever else it is found practicable.

16. *Resolved*, That the Central Finance Committee in the city of New York, for the Sanitary Commission, be authorized to audit all bills and accounts of the Treasurer of this Commission.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

17. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission, in their endeavors to promote temperance, cleanliness, and comfort among the troops, have become convinced that the first sanitary law in camp and among soldiers is *military* discipline ; and that unless this is vigorously asserted and enforced, it is useless to attempt and impossible to effect, by any secondary means, the great end they propose—which is the health and happiness of the Army.

18. *Resolved*, That looking only to the health and comfort of the troops, it is our profound conviction that any special relaxation of military discipline in favor of volunteer troops, based either upon their supposed unwillingness or inability to endure it, or upon the alleged expectation of the public, is a fallacious policy, and fraught with peril to the lives of the men and the success of the national cause ; and that, speaking in the name of the families and the communities from which the volunteers come, and in the name of humanity and religion, we implore that the most thorough system of military discipline be carried out with the officers and men of the volunteer force, as the first and essential condition of their health, comfort, and morality.

19. *Resolved*, That the health and comfort and efficiency of the men is mainly dependent on the uninterrupted presence, the personal watchfulness, and the rigid authority of the regimental and company officers :

and that all the great defects, whether in the commissariat or in the police of camps, are radically due to the absence of officers from their posts and to the laxity of the discipline to which they are themselves accustomed—a laxity which would never be tolerated among regulars, and which, while tolerated among our soldiers, will make our force a crowd of armed men rather than an army.

20. *Resolved*, That it is the public conviction of this Commission, that the soldiers themselves, *in their painful experience of the want of leaders and protectors*, would heartily welcome a rigid discipline exerted over their officers and themselves; that the public would hail with joy the inauguration of a decisive, prompt, and rigid rule, extending alike to officers and men; and that any despondency or doubt connected with our military and national prospects, or with the health and security of our troops, would disappear with the first indications of rigid order enforced with impartial authority throughout the whole army.

21. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission assure Major General McClellan in advance, of all the moral support and sympathy of their numerous constituents, and beg him to believe that the humane, the intelligent, the religious, the patriotic, will uphold his hands in every endeavor to communicate a spirit of subordination, fidelity, and obedience to the troops, even by resort, if found necessary, to the utmost rigor of military law, believing that the health, comfort, and efficiency of the Army are all united in their dependence on a strict, uniform, and all-pervading military discipline.

22. *Resolved*, That the following articles be procured for immediate use in the general hospitals: 100 small tables for writing in bed, 100 iron wire cradles for protecting wounded limbs, 30 back-gammon boards, 30 boxes of dominos, 30 checker-boards, 5 lbs. of Delphinium.

23. *Resolved*, That no article of clothing or other supplies shall be issued except upon the order of the Commission, or the order of the Resident Secretary when the Commission is not in session, and that in every instance receipts shall be taken therefor from the medical officers supplied, and that all such articles be distinctly marked with the stamp of the Sanitary Commission.

24. *Resolved*, That a barber be employed by the Commission for the service of volunteers in hospitals.

25. *Resolved*, That a committee to be appointed inquire into the feasibility of having some substitute for a grave-stone placed at the burial place of each volunteer dying in general hospital, to bear his name, rank, and date of death.

26. *Resolved*, That the Medical Purveyor be respectfully authorized to direct that a ticket bearing the name, rank, regiment, company, and disease of each patient in general hospital, together with date of his admission, be placed at the head of his bed, or in some conspicuous place in its vicinity, as early as practicable.

27. *Resolved*, That it be referred to the Committee on Hospitals, to consider and report whether it be expedient to establish a Military Hospital in Washington or elsewhere, under the direction of the Commission; and, if they deem it expedient, to report further what should be the site and capacity of such hospital, and what would be the expense of its erection and maintenance, and to report plans, and estimates for such hospital building, and that Drs. Van Buren and Agnew be such committee.

28. *Resolved*, That it be referred to a committee to inquire and report what action, if any, can be taken by the Sanitary Commission to improve the condition of the general hospitals at Georgetown, Alexandria, and elsewhere.

29. *Resolved*, That Dr. Newberry be requested to give himself up to the superintendence of inspection of our labor in the West—visiting the different sections, conferring with and aiding our local inspectors, and reporting weekly to Washington the results of his general observations and reflections upon the best methods of promoting the objects of the Commission in that quarter.

30. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to draw up and present to the Sanitary Commission, during its present session, a report on the best methods of improving the morale of the volunteer and militia forces. (Messrs. Gibbs, Strong, and Van Buren were appointed such committee.)

31. *Resolved*, That the same committee be requested to report upon the best means of promoting cheerfulness, and healthy mental and physical recreation among the volunteer and militia forces.

32. *Resolved*, That the Recording Secretary be requested to collect and arrange the resolutions passed by the Sanitary commission at its different meetings, and print the same as a document of the Commission, and that, in future, all such resolutions shall be collected and printed at the close of each session.

33. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission cordially approve of the substitute for yeast prepared by the Rumford Chemical Works under the patent of Professor Horsford, and recommend the use of this material in the preparation of bread for the volunteer and militia forces.



34. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to add to the Commission an additional member from New England, and that the Right Rev. Thos. C. Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island, be appointed such a commissioner; also that it is expedient to add to the Commission one member from Pennsylvania, and that Horace Binney, jr., Esq., be so appointed.

35. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a list of graduates of West Point who have resigned from the Army, and who are probably available for military command, and that the committee be instructed to prepare such list, without aiming at the minute accuracy, which might interfere with prompt action, and that they be authorized to furnish their results in such form as may seem to them appropriate, correcting the list, if practicable, by a circular, to be addressed to the graduates.

The President, Professor Baehe, and Col. G. W. Cullum were appointed such committee.

36. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission urgently recommend the establishment of receiving stations at New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Baltimore, and at various points in the West, so that troops upon their arrival in those cities may, in case of necessity, be provided with lodging, and with well-prepared and nutritious food; also with facilities for washing, and for attention to the calls of nature.

37. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary be instructed to organize, under the special charge of one of the inspectors, a system in each of the hospitals of this military district, (and, as far as possible, in all others,) by which the wounded soldiers shall be enabled to communicate by letter with their friends; and to secure also such comfort from reading, and being read to, as their condition and the rules of the hospitals allow.

38. *Resolved*, That it be recommended that in each hospital the steward, ward master, or intelligent convalescents be made the agents and instruments of the Commission in accomplishing this work; that to one of them be specially committed a store of stationery, marked with the stamp of the Commission, and either franked or furnished with postage stamps when the use of the congressional privilege is not preferred by the soldier; that this agent be required to make a daily record of every letter written and every hour of reading done, and a weekly report of the same to the inspector.

39. *Resolved*, That the Bible and such religious books as the soldiers may ask for, or such as represent their denominational relations, be always recommended, and read when acceptable to the sick, but not to the exclusion of works of entertainment, newspapers, &c.



40. *Resolved*, That the barber be under the superintendence of the same inspector, and make weekly reports to him.

41. *Resolved*, That the proprietors of leading newspapers and periodicals be earnestly requested to furnish as many copies of each issue as their benevolence and ability may prompt, directed in bundles to our address, for the use of the sick in the hospitals.

42. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary be authorized and advised to cause to be published an abstract of those sections of the Army Regulations which relate especially to the sanitary interests of the soldier.

43. *Resolved*, That \$25 a month for two months from the present date be appropriated for the washing of the clothing of volunteers entering the general hospital at Columbia College; the surgeon in charge (Dr. Abadie, U. S. A.,) to give receipt for the same. Also that \$20 per month for the same period be appropriated for the Seminary Hospital, Georgetown; the surgeon in charge (Dr. Smith, U. S. A.,) giving receipt for the same; and both of these gentlemen undertaking to superintend the disbursement of the money.

44. *Resolved*, That the report and recommendations of the hospital committee be accepted and adopted, and that the same be referred back to the committee for revision and amplification; and that the committee cause the same, when complete, to be printed and circulated, as a document of the Commission; and that copies thereof be sent to the Secretary of War, and to the Medical and Quartermaster's Departments.

45. *Resolved*, That Dr. Harris is hereby requested to visit the military depots at Albany, Elmira, and Harrisburg, for the purposes of sanitary inspection and the improvement of their condition and the troops assembled at those places, and to report upon the same at the next meeting of the Commission.

46. *Resolved*, That the Commission recognizes no official relation with any persons except the officers of Government and its own associates and employees.

47. *Resolved*, That the members of the Sanitary Commission, resident at Washington, be a committee to call at an early day upon Major General McClellan and assure him of their desire to co-operate with him in every possible manner in securing the good discipline, health, and efficiency of the troops; also to explain to him the ends and methods of the Commission, ask his favorable consideration, his frank counsel, and his powerful assistance in the objects of the Commission.

48. *Resolved*, That the same committee be instructed to obtain from the General, if possible, the direction of the receiving depot of troops, subject to understood conditions of receiving it.

49. *Resolved*, That resolution twelve be and hereby is rescinded, and that it be ordered that when important defects or mismanagement affecting the sanitary condition of any regiment shall be reported by the Sanitary Inspectors, the facts shall be communicated to the Governor of the State from which the officers shall have received their appointment, unless the information shall appear to have been furnished to the Commission confidentially.

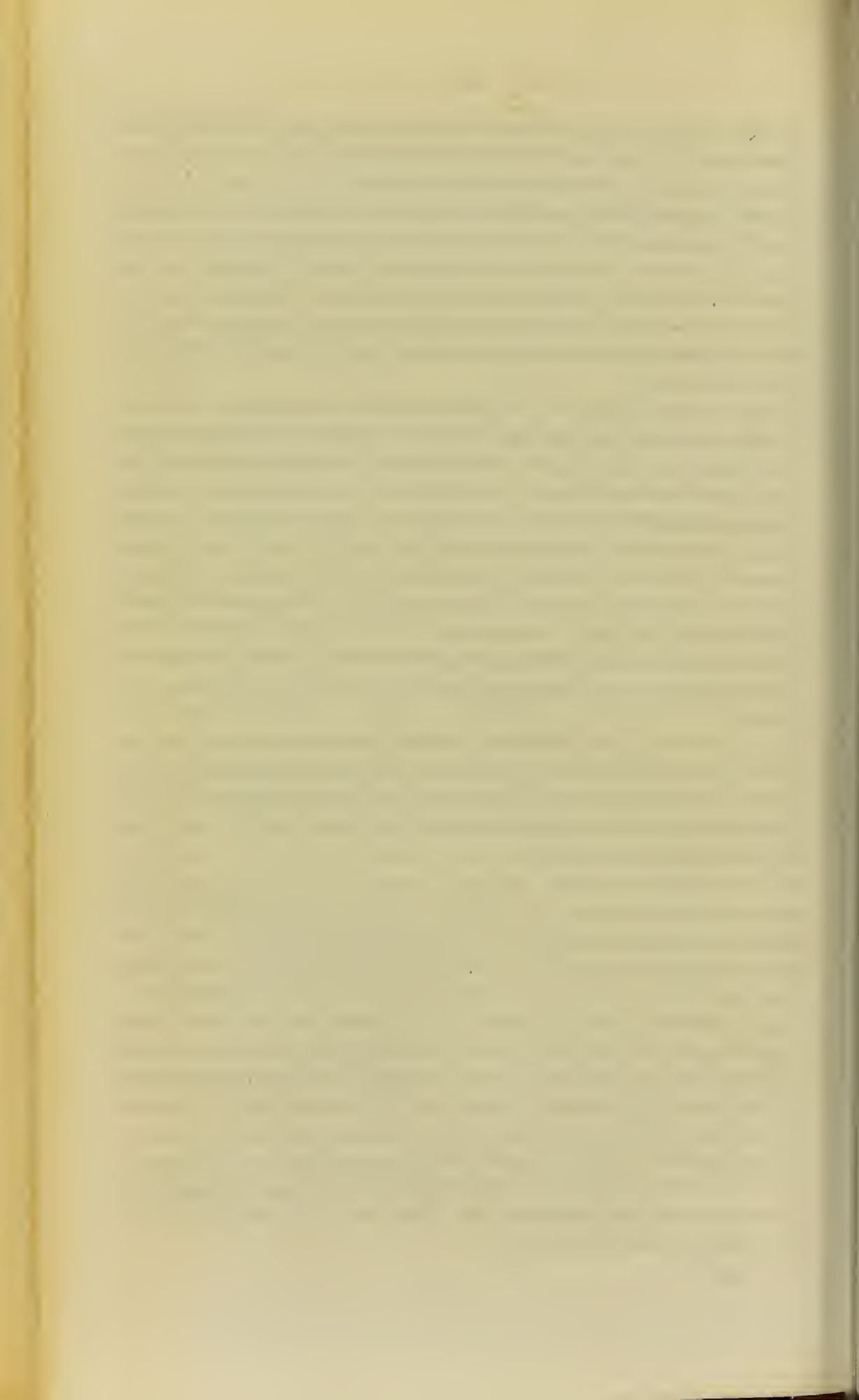
50. *Resolved*, That the Commission has reason to believe that personal visits to the soldiers from the Governors of States and other eminent men, with words of sympathy, encouragement, and well-deserved praise, are of most essential service, and that the Commission suggests that the regimental bands should be instructed to give occasional concerts to the soldiers; that dress parades shall be held in Pennsylvania avenue, or elsewhere, to be attended by members of the Cabinet and high officials; that when it is convenient the position of the regiments should be occasionally shifted some distance, and that, so far as practicable and consistent with official propriety, the officers of the General Government shall continue to show a lively and personal interest in the welfare of the troops.

51. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Commission are due to Dr. Harris, for his devotion to the interests of the Commission, and for the zeal and fidelity with which he has discharged his duties; and that the duties of corresponding and recording secretary are hereby united to the duties of the Resident Secretary.

52. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission have observed with great satisfaction, during their official visits to the general hospitals, the intelligent devotion of the medical officers of the Army to their respective duties, and the commendable means with which they have commenced the organization of military hospitals under extraordinary difficulties.

53. *Resolved*, That the report of the committee on West Point graduates be referred back to the committee with authority to make such additions and changes as may be approved by them; to have their report, thus finally prepared, printed, and to circulate the list of names of graduates probably available for the military service.

54. *Resolved*, That the report from the committee on the preservation of records of deaths and interments be accepted or recommended to the chairman of the committee, with directions to procure the adoption of a plan for such registration.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 22.

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The following statement of the considerations which led to the appointment of this Commission by the War Department, of the purposes to which its funds are applied, and of the work it hopes to accomplish if adequately sustained by the public, is intended for the satisfaction of those who may be invited to aid it by contributions of money or otherwise.

## 1.—ORIGIN OF THE COMMISSION.

The important duty of devising measures for the protection of the health of the U. S. army, and for its preservation from the diseases to which soldiers are peculiarly exposed, belongs to a branch of the War Department known as the Medical Bureau, by which it has always been executed with ability and success.

At an early stage of the war, however, it became manifest that the large and sudden increase of the army must throw on this Bureau an amount of work to which it was necessarily unequal.

Having been organized with reference to the wants of an army of only a few thousand men, it was likely to be most seriously embarrassed in its operations when called on to provide for a newly levied force of several hundred thousand—especially as both officers and men of these hastily assembled regiments were mostly without experience, and required immediate and extraordinary instruction and supervision to save them from the consequences of exposure, malaria, unwholesome food, and the other perils of camp life.

These are practically the gravest and most formidable dangers to which soldiers in actual service are exposed. Under the most favorable conditions an army loses, in the course of a campaign, at least four times as many men by disease as by the casualties of actual warfare. Among newly levied and inexperienced soldiers the ratio is much larger. Neglect of sanitary precautions in camp, quarters, and hospitals, is almost inevitably followed by epidemics, the appear-



ance of which may paralyze the operations of a whole army, and result in a public calamity more serious than the loss of a great battle.

In view of this danger, and of the pressure upon the Medical Bureau arising from the increase and the active employment of the regular army, the War Department decided to appoint a Commission to aid and co-operate with it in providing for the sanitary interests of the newly raised volunteer forces. This step was taken on the suggestion of the Acting Surgeon General, and with the formal approval of the President.

A copy of the order appointing the Commission is annexed.

## 2.—OBJECTS OF THE COMMISSION.

These are generally indicated by the order of the Secretary of War. But those who are invited to contribute to its support are entitled to a more specific statement of the objects to which their contributions will be applied.

The employment of Sanitary Agents or Inspectors to reside in or near the several great military centres is deemed of great importance. Of these six have been already employed and are in the field, at various points from the Chesapeake to the Missouri. If the Commission were provided with means to employ twenty instead of six, the community at large would thereby probably save ten times the additional outlay. These inspectors act under detailed instructions and make weekly reports to the resident Secretary of the Commission (Frederick L. Olmsted, Esq.,) at Washington. Their duties are, generally, to visit the camps, barracks, quarters, and regimental hospitals, systematically and regularly, with a view to discover and remedy defects in their drainage, ventilation, &c., in the quality of the food and water supplied the men, in the system (if any) of camp cooking, in clothing, camp police, medicines, bedding, and hospital stores, in the supply of disinfectants, and in every other particular by which the health of the troops can be affected. It is the natural and excusable ignorance of a very large proportion of our newly appointed volunteer officers on these and other sanitary points, and the fact that they do not appreciate the

immense importance of attending to them daily and systematically, which constitute the chief source of peril to our troops. Officers generally take it for granted that their duty toward their men begins and ends with drill and parade, forgetting that camp disease is by far the most dangerous enemy they have to fear, and at the same time the only enemy against which vigilance and precaution are almost certain of success. It is believed that the constant attention and care of intelligent and educated inspectors charged with the sole duty of watching over the sanitary condition of camps, &c., and of calling the attention of officers and men to the serious defects that are almost invariably found there, is the only available remedy for this evil.

The Inspectors thus far employed are members of the medical profession, of high standing, and have made sanitary science a special pursuit. The actual and necessary expenses of each while engaged in his duties (travelling included) cannot be estimated at a rate less than fifteen hundred dollars per annum. Though they are clothed with no official power to order the correction of the evils they find existing, their advice and suggestions have generally been thus far gratefully received and promptly carried out, at least for the time. Even with the small number of agents the Commission has thus far been enabled to employ, great good has been effected, many abuses have been corrected, and (it is confidently believed) many lives have been saved.

Resident agents are also needed to act as inspectors of the General Hospitals at Washington and elsewhere. One has been appointed and is now engaged in his duties. These are analogous to those required of the Camp Inspectors, and with the additional charge of seeing that the volunteers, while in hospital, have all the care and comfort that professional skill, good nursing, and intelligent liberality can give them. Funds are also required to supply both General and Regimental Hospitals with various surgical and other appliances (and, if possible, with comforts,) which the Medical Department does not supply—such as water-beds, wire frames to keep bed clothes from contact with wounded limbs, and other articles well known in private surgical and medical practice. Extra

hospital clothing, additional supplies, and model appliances have already been provided by the Commission as liberally as the funds under its control would justify. Large supplies of ice for the hospitals (furnished by private liberality) have been forwarded to Washington at the expense of the Commission, and most thankfully received.

Though the hospital stores furnished by Government are abundant, and excellent of their kind, the list of articles it provides has been, of course, made up with reference solely to the wants of the regular army. But among the rank and file of our volunteers are to be found representatives from every class in society, including many to whom certain additional comforts are matter of necessity, the want of which retards convalescence, if it do not prevent recovery, and those comforts the Commission hopes to be enabled in some degree to provide, without distinction, to all who need them.

The Commission proposes also to distribute among officers and men printed rules for the preservation of health in camp, calling their attention particularly to the various points already alluded to as involving danger. It will also issue from time to time other publications, intended to direct the attention of the military authorities to such sanitary reforms and improvements as experience and observation may suggest.

It is in constant receipt of supplies of stores, clothing, and other articles contributed by patriotic individuals and associations throughout the country, which involve large outlay for expense of transportation and storage.

It will be called upon to pay the wages of male nurses for the hospitals, and sundry other necessary expenses not provided by Government.

Other minor sources of expense, such as advertising, insurance, telegraphing, postage, clerk hire, &c., need not be specified.

It will be perceived that the chief objects for which funds are required are the employment of camp and hospital inspectors, the supply of certain extra hospital appliances, and the printing and circulation of documents.

For these purposes, and supposing the inspectors to receive compensation at the rate of six hundred dollars per annum



over and above their necessary expenses,\* and that twenty-five are employed by the Commission (and a smaller number cannot do the work required,) an annual expenditure of not less than sixty thousand dollars is required.

It is for the community to decide whether it can or will furnish this large sum, and whether it will not, in the end, save money by enabling the Commission to do its work thoroughly and efficiently.

It should be remembered that the life of every soldier who dies of disease, which sanitary precautions could have averted, is simply wasted, or worse than wasted, since others must be withdrawn from duty to provide for his wants during his illness. Each of our volunteers (regarded from the lowest possible point of view) represents a certain considerable amount of mere money value to the nation at large, and this value is steadily increasing day by day, as he gains experience in his daily duties. If he is allowed to perish because he has no one to advise him or his officers that a camp badly policed is sure to breed a pestilence—that the air within an ill-ventilated tent is converted into poisonous gas—and that ill-cooked or ill-kept food will produce dysentery—the community which permits him so to perish for want of advice and help, and which (in many cases) burthens itself, moreover, with the support of a destitute family, is, to say the least, guilty of wreckless extravagance, peculiarly inexpedient at the present time. No economy can be more effective in the prosecution of the present just and necessary war than an exacting, vigilant, and scrupulous economy of the health and life of every volunteer soldier we send into the field.

With sufficient means at its command, the Commission, cordially sustained as it is by the authorities at Washington, can do much to promote this great national object.

It is to be borne in mind, however, that the seeds of mischief are already sown, by months of negligence and disregard of sanitary precautions. It is to be feared that these will soon bear their legitimate fruit, and that we shall hear

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\* Most of the Inspectors thus far employed have consented to serve without compensation beyond their actual expenses, but it is hardly to be hoped that a sufficient number of educated and competent men can be found who will labor effectively and permanently on these terms.



of epidemics in our camps, and malignant forms of disease in the General Hospitals. It is probably too late to completely avert these evils. What the Commission has already done—though necessarily on a limited scale—will no doubt diminish their severity; and during the few weeks that are still left before the perilous Fall months are upon us, the Commission hopes to make still further progress, and do much to mitigate the evils by which the army is threatened. The extent to which it shall be able to do so depends mainly on the amount of means which the community shall place at its disposal.

### 3.—AID FROM GOVERNMENT.

It has been suggested that the Commission ought to look to Government for the money it requires, instead of appealing to private liberality.

This question was fully considered by the Commission at its meetings held in Washington before and during the late session of Congress. It came to the conclusion that the application to Congress for pecuniary aid was for many reasons inexpedient.

Among these reasons were the following: The Commission has little or no official power, and can accomplish its objects only through whatever moral weight and influence it may possess. These would be impaired if not destroyed, in public estimation at least, were the Commission to appear among the crowds that fill the lobbies of Congress. The mere suspicion that it was connected with political agencies would paralyze its usefulness. There was reason to apprehend that a grant of money from Congress, if obtained at all, would be obtained on terms and conditions as to the appointment of agents, and the application of funds that would impair the efficiency of its operations. It was certain, moreover, that any appropriation that could reasonably be expected would fall far short of the amount required. To make up the deficiency, the Commission would therefore still be obliged to rely on the liberality of individuals. And it was thought probable that an appeal to the public for support would be wholly in vain, were the Commission actually in receipt of any amount, however small, of funds derived from the Public Treasury.

On these and other grounds the Commission determined to rely for support on the community at large, and every indication up to the present time justifies it in taking that course.

The whole subject is commended to the consideration of those who have at heart the interests of the Army and of the Nation. Members of the Commission rely with entire confidence on the good sense, the patriotism, and the charitable instincts of their fellow-citizens for means to enable them to carry out the work they have undertaken.

On behalf of the Commission,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.  
CORNS. R. AGNEW, M. D.  
GEO. T. STRONG, Treasurer.

NEW YORK, August 13, 1861.

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#### ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, June 9, 1861.*

The Secretary of War has learned, with great satisfaction, that at the instance and in pursuance of the suggestion of the Medical Bureau, in a communication to this office, dated May 22, 1861, Henry W. Bellows, D. D., Prof. A. D. Bache, L. L. D., Prof. Jeffries Wyman, M. D., Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, M. D., W. H. Van Buren, M. D., Samuel G. Howe, M. D., Dr. R. C. Wood, U. S. A., G. W. Cullum, U. S. A., Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A., have mostly consented, in connection with such others as they may choose to associate with them, to act as "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," and without remuneration from the Government. The Secretary has submitted their patriotic proposal to the consideration of the President, who directs the acceptance of the service thus generously offered.

The Commission, in connection with a Surgeon of the U. S. A., to be designated by the Secretary, will direct its inquiries to the principles and practices connected with the inspection of recruits and enlisted men ; to the sanitary condi-

tion of the volunteers; to the means of preserving and restoring the health, and of securing the general comfort and efficiency of troops; to the proper provision of cooks, nurses, and hospitals; and to other subjects of like nature.

The Commission will frame such rules and regulations, in respect of the objects and modes of its inquiry, as may seem best adapted to the purpose of its constitution, which, when approved by the Secretary, will be established as general guides of its investigations and action.

A room with necessary conveniences will be provided in the City of Washington for the use of the Commission, and the members will meet when and at such places as may be convenient to them for consultation, and for the determination of such questions as may come properly before the Commission.

In the progress of its inquiries, the Commission will correspond freely with the Department and with the Medical Bureau, and will communicate to each, from time to time, such observations and results as it may deem expedient and important.

The Commission will exist until the Secretary of War shall otherwise direct, unless sooner dissolved by its own action.

SIMON CAMERON,

*Secretary of War.*

I approve the above.

A. LINCOLN.

June 13, 1861.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, August 13, 1861.

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 RT. REV. THOS. M. CLARK, *Providence, R. I.*



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 23.

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WASHINGTON, July 31st, 1861.

The Committee appointed on the 29th inst., to visit the Military General Hospitals in and around Washington, and to ascertain their condition and the wants of the sick and wounded volunteers, beg to report, that they have visited the following Hospitals, viz.:

1. *The Washington Infirmary, C street;*
2. *The Union Hotel Hospital, Georgetown;*
3. *The Seminary Hospital, Georgetown;*
4. *The Columbia College Hospital;*
5. *The Alexandria Hospital.*

With the exception of the first named Institution, all of these Hospitals have been hired by the Government and converted to their present uses, furnished and provided with officers and attendants, within the present month. There is also a Hospital on E street, and another at Annapolis, Maryland, which your Committee were unable to visit, and also a Hospital for eruptive and contagious diseases.

The aggregate number of patients in these Hospitals is about 900; of whom about 450 are men wounded in the affair of the 21st inst., the remainder comprising medical cases, and those sick in Hospital before the engagement.

The Committee takes pleasure in reporting, in general terms, that the Hospital accommodations in this locality, and at the present time, are extensive, that their officers and attendants are equal to their duties, and that the sick and wounded are generally doing well. Certain facts which have been observed, and suggestions which have occurred to them, will be stated in connection with each Hospital, in the order in which it was visited.

1. *Infirmary, C Street.*—This building has been in use for a number of years. It is said to be capable of accommodating 180 patients, and at present contains about 160. A number of Sisters of Charity are attached to the Institution, sufficient to attend to the preparation and distribution of food to the sick. The building is defective in many of the particulars deemed essential in the construction of a perfect Hospital at the present day. The ceilings are low; the windows small, and too few in number; the supply of water and accommodations for bathing,



and the provision of water-closets are insufficient; and there is no dead-house—dead bodies being kept in a lower room within the building until they are buried. The basement is damp—its ceilings low, its wards small, and badly ventilated. Commendable foresight has been exercised in erecting tents suitable for the reception of cases of Fever and Erysipelas on a vacant space in the rear of the building. The surface of this space, however, is very uneven and imperfectly drained.

2. *The Union Hotel Hospital, Georgetown*, was occupied as its name implies, until recently hired for its present use. It is considered capable of accommodating 225 patients, and at present contains 189. It is well situated, but the building is old, out of repair, and cut up into a number of small rooms, with windows too small and few in number to afford good ventilation. Its halls and passages, are narrow, tortuous, and abrupt, and in many instances with carpets still unremoved from their floors, and walls covered with paper. There are no provisions for bathing, the water-closets and sinks are insufficient and defective, and there is no dead-house. The wards are many of them over-crowded, and destitute of arrangements for artificial ventilation. The cellars and area are damp and undrained, and much of the wood work is actively decaying.

3. *The Seminary Hospital*, in the immediate vicinity of the last, is much better adapted to Hospital purposes, though it also is defective in water-closets and baths, and its passages and halls are tortuous and narrow, and many of its wards are small, and imperfectly ventilated. There are no arrangements for artificial ventilation, and the number of beds would greatly over-crowd the wards if all were occupied. At the present time, when the warmth justifies the universal opening of windows and doors, the risk of communicable disease is lessened, but during the autumnal changes the absence of facilities for artificial ventilation will be productive of serious disease. Its wards at present contain about 135 patients, though beds are spread for 30 more.

4. *The Columbia College Hospital*, situate upon the highest ground in the immediate vicinity of Washington, was recently used for academic purposes, and is an old building in a state of pretty good repair. It is a large four-story structure, in the form of a parallelogram, and said to be capable of containing 250 beds, when crowded. It has now 230 patients, with several hospital tents erected upon the level ground in the rear. Each story is bisected longitudinally by a narrow hall, with terminal windows, and flanked right and left by small wards. Opening upon each of these wards, by narrow door-ways, are two slips or smaller rooms, barely large enough to contain a single bed and chair, and

totally unfit for dormitories for the sick. This peculiarity in the architecture makes ventilation exceedingly difficult, and the present absence of disease originating in impure air is due to open doors and windows, and the newness of bedding and furniture, and to the fact that the walls and wood work are not yet saturated by animal emanations. The removal of some of the partition walls would be unexpensive, and in the highest degree desirable.

No dead-house has been provided, and the hospital tents intended for communicable diseases, such as erysipelas and typhoid fever, should be further removed. There is a total want of water-closets, and the use of close stools, and consequent necessity of conveying the latter, by hand, through the halls, induces constant impurity of the air, and the risk of communicating such diseases as typhoid fever and dysentery. Bath tubs have been provided, but not running water, and the inconvenience attending upon general ablutions makes them in many cases impossible.

5. *The Alexandria Hospital* is also an old building, formerly occupied as a Seminary. It is an irregular structure, and badly adapted to hospital purposes. Its halls and stairways are narrow and abrupt, and many of its wards small and difficult of access. Its immediate precincts are damp from the proximity of large shade trees, and the wood-work of its piazzas and sheds is rapidly decaying. Ventilation is even now very defective, and an unhealthy odor pervades the building. The latter is due in a measure to the fact, that troops recently quartered in the building, had been allowed to accumulate filth in some of the upper rooms and the cellar. It should be stated, that the physician in charge, has used every endeavor to cleanse the premises, and is exercising admirable intelligence and vigor in compensating for many of its architectural defects. There being no in-door water-closets or baths, the same necessity for conveying close-stools through the house induces the risk that obtains in the Union Hotel and other Hospitals. Evidences were exhibited in some cases of the prevalence of retained air poison, and when the windows and doors are closed during stormy or cooler weather, it is feared disease will be engendered.

There is no dead-house. This Hospital now contains ninety-six patients, with an estimated capacity for 150.

For present demands, the Hospitals indicated possess some advantages, but should not be deemed models, or as furnishing precedents for the use of similar buildings in the future. Old buildings do not make good Hospitals. It is also fixed in the experience of those most able to judge, that large buildings are liable to grave objections. They form store-

houses for morbid emanations, and are only comparatively safe when ventilated at great expense, by complicated artificial means. The sealy walls and cracked wood-work of old buildings present innumerable lurking places for foul air, and patients occupying such buildings are too frequently attacked by erysipelas, or scourged by Hospital gangrene. Even when such maladies are absent, the almost constant presence of animal impurities imposes a weight upon the recuperative energies of the sick, which by inducing debilitating complications retards or prevents their recovery.

We must remember, in criticizing these institutions, the circumstances under which they were selected, and the additional fact, that Washington does not offer many buildings suitable for Hospital purposes. Your Committee sees in these buildings a confirmation, if any were needed, of their belief, that wooden pavilions properly constructed and scattered, constitute the best Hospital structures. Upon the ground of economy, also, they would be preferable. We cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of alluding, in terms of well earned praise, to the medical men in charge. The difficulties encountered by them in quickly converting old and badly constructed buildings into Hospitals, in cleansing and furnishing them, and providing the necessary attendance and service, cannot be adequately set forth in the compass of a brief report. The results of their labors, constantly appearing, have evoked our surprise and admiration. The moral aspect of the wards is excellent, the sick being generally cheerful and contented, and there is every indication that the proper relationship exists between the doctor and his patient. Kindness seems to be everywhere prevalent and the nursing is generally admirable.

We come now to consider the condition and wants of the patients in the General Hospitals. Of these, nearly one-half had accumulated from the regiments stationed in and around Washington, many having been sent to Hospital when the advance took place previous to the battle of the 21st July. They comprised mainly, medical cases—diarrhoea, dysentery, miasmatic and typhoid fever; the surgical cases consisted of accidental wounds, and patients with varicose ulcers, and rupture, and also men suffering from phthisis, and other diseases with which they were allowed to enter the military service in consequence of imperfect inspection. This number was increased by the wounded from the action of the 18th July, but the great influx of wounded commenced on the night of the 21st July, and continued through the three or four following days. The total number of wounded and disabled men and officers who found their way into the General Hospitals in Georgetown, Wash-



ington, and Alexandria during the week following the battle at Bull Run was not far from 500.

They consisted mainly of those who were least severely injured in that battle; all of the fatally and severely wounded men having been left of necessity, as it would seem, upon the field. The great majority of the soldiers wounded on the 21st July, who were seen by your Committee in the several Hospitals, had reached them mainly through their own individual exertions, most of them having marched from the field of battle to their camps on the Potomac. There were many instances of men with bullet wounds through their legs and thighs, who walked over twenty miles during the twenty-four hours after they were wounded; and in one case, a poor fellow whose arm had been amputated above the elbow, on the field, reached a Hospital in Washington on the day afterwards in safety, having walked the whole distance. It is much to be regretted that he has since died from erysipelas in the Hospital on E street. As a general rule, the wounds of these men were doing well. From the camps many were brought to the Hospitals in wagons and ambulances, but your Committee were unable to find an instance in which a wounded man was thus conveyed from the field of battle to a Hospital.

A very large proportion of the wounds were caused by bullets, and these not of the minie variety; some by grape shot and fragments of shells; there were a very few bayonet wounds, and but a solitary case of sabre cut. The temper and feeling of the wounded men was good; many of them were hopeful and buoyant, a few sad and depressed, but the general tone was that of men who felt that they had done their duty, and were ready to do it again. In some instances expressions of disrespect and blame towards their officers were volunteered in answer to inquiries as to how and when they received their wounds. In the opinion of your Committee the medical and surgical treatment extended to the sick and wounded in the Hospitals, is in the main excellent, and the supply of surgeons ample. The medical students supplied for the emergency from New York, as surgical dressers, with a few exceptions, proved very useful to the surgeons, and were doing excellent service. The female nurses, also, as far as your Committee could ascertain, were of great comfort to the sick. They were tolerated without complaint, and, in several instances, their services were even highly spoken of by the medical officers in charge. In regard to male nurses, on the contrary, there was much complaint as to their inefficiency



and want of aptitude and disposition for their duties; this was especially remarked of the volunteers.\*

The supply of food, hospital stores, and medicines was ample and excellent, with the exceptions hereafter to be mentioned, but the Hospital Fund, the usual source of supply of extras in the way of comfort and luxury to the sick, in Military Hospitals, was entirely deficient in most of the Hospitals. The absence of this fund, which accumulates from the sale of the excess of the supply of food from the Commissary Department over the amount actually consumed by the sick, and which is usually amply sufficient for the provision of all extras required in the way of chickens, milk, fresh eggs, porter, &c., &c., is explained by the recent organization of the several Hospitals, sufficient time not having yet elapsed for its accumulation, and also by the fact that the sick have required a larger proportion of their rations than usual, in consequence of their exhausted and depressed condition on admission, and the tendency, already observed in their ailments, to assume an adynamic or typhoid character. Your Committee were enabled to meet this difficulty in some degree, and very acceptably, by supplying ice to the several Hospitals, from the stores of the Commission, this article being in much demand for the sick, and only obtainable by means of the Hospital Fund. Two articles of medicine not on the U. S. medical supply table—Delphinium, used for killing vermin, and Sol. of Persulphate of Iron, for restraining bleeding, were asked for, and have been supplied by the Commission.

But the principal want experienced by the sick, and one which the Government makes no provision whatever for meeting, was found by your Committee to be clean and appropriate Hospital clothing. But for the liberal forethought of the benevolent women of the nation, our soldiers would have been compelled to lie sick and wounded in the clothes in which they entered the Hospital wards, and which, in many cases, had not been changed or even washed for weeks before. Many had been already supplied, and your Committee had the satisfaction of seeing, within a very few days after their first visit to the Hospitals, that every sick man in Hospital was fully provided with a proper suit of clothing, by the authority of the Commission.

No available provision being made by Government for the washing of the clothing worn by volunteers on their entering Hospital, the Com-

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\* The Commission has already supplied one professional male nurse, who is doing very acceptable service in the Georgetown Seminary Hospital, and it is probable that others will be required.

mittee secured the authority of the Commission for the employment of laundresses for this purpose; so that when the soldier is ready to leave Hospital and resume his duties, his clothing will be clean and fit for use.

The services of a barber were also authorized to be procured for the sick, and your Committee can bear witness that he contributed not a little to their cleanliness and comfort. Wire frames, for the protection of wounded limbs from the pressure of bed-clothes, were found to be wanted, and they were supplied. Water-beds, of India rubber; drinking cups, with spouts, for administering food and medicine; splints, bandages, and lint have also been furnished. Bed-tables, with writing paper and franked envelopes have also been obtained, and it is proposed to add easy chairs, games, and other articles for the comfort and amusement of convalescents, as they seem to be desirable.

Another subject was recognized by your Committee as possessing much interest and importance, viz.: the provision of systematic and reliable means of identifying the remains of soldiers dying in the General Hospitals, and of properly marking the graves in which they are interred, so that the reasonable inquiries of friends and relations may be properly answered. This matter was brought before the Commission, and referred to a Special Committee, for immediate action.

In conclusion, and as the result of their observations, your Committee cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that, although they have spoken favorably as to the provisions for the accommodation of the sick, and their general good condition in and around Washington at the present time, if the result of the advance of the 21st of July had been more favorable to the national arms, if our troops had occupied the field of battle, and if a larger proportion of our wounded had been consequently brought by ambulances to the Hospitals, together with the wounded of the enemy, the Hospital accommodations and supplies would not have been sufficiently ample to have met their wants and the expectations of the nation. We would suggest that Government cannot err in making the most liberal provision for the sick and wounded, and in the promptest manner, by the accumulation of large stores of bedding and hospital supplies at safe and available localities near the main body of the army. It is a just estimate to assume the necessity of providing for ten per cent. at least of sick for an army in the field; and this would bring the number nearer 15,000 than 1,500, whilst with hard fought battles in prospect, and the sickness of the autumn months, the per centage to be provided for will probably be much higher than this estimate.

Your Committee venture to embody their conclusions in the form of suggestions, and would submit to the Commission (2dly) the propriety of recommending to Government that hereafter instead of hiring old buildings for General Hospitals they should order the erection of a sufficient number of wooden shanties or pavilions of appropriate construction, and fully provided with water for bathing, washing, and water-closets, and ample arrangements for ventilation and for securing warmth in winter, to accommodate from thirty to sixty each, and to be sufficiently distant not to poison each other. This suggestion embodies the latest and best views as to the construction of hospitals, and its adoption would save both lives and money.

3d. If the funds of the Commission allow, one or more practiced male nurses, selected from the civil Hospitals of the country, should be secured for each of the military General Hospitals, for especial attendance upon the more serious surgical cases.

4th. In view of the inevitable accumulation of chronic cases of disease in the General Hospitals near the seat of war in large numbers, and of the great advantages that would be secured to many of them by change to a northern climate with sea-air, and for many other equally important considerations, your Committee would suggest that the recommendation already made by the Commission as to the establishment of a General Military Hospital in the harbor of New York, be again urged upon the attention of the War Department.

5th. If the present Hospitals are to be occupied during the fall and winter months, some plan should be at once adopted and applied, by the competent authorities, to correct their architectural defects, to provide facilities for bathing and water-closets, to introduce water on each floor, and to separate the dead-houses from the wards occupied by the sick. Measures should also be taken to improve their ventilation, and for their thorough warming in winter. Your Committee recommend the Commission to bring these subjects to the notice of the proper authorities.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.  
C. R. AGNEW, M. D.

The above report was accepted and adopted by the Commission on the 31st July, 1861.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*Resident Secretary.*



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 24.

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Among the objects to which the funds of the Commission are applied are the following :

1. The employment of medical inspectors to visit the various camps, and to remedy the numerous sources of disease and danger that exist in all of them ; as, for instance, defects in drainage and ventilation, in the quality or preparation of food, uncleanness in tents and quarters, insufficiency of clothing, the situation of camps with reference to malaria, &c., &c., &c. Six inspectors are now employed. At least four times as many are required. Their travelling and other expenses are estimated at the rate of fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

2. Inspectors are also needed at the general hospitals, to see that the volunteers are provided with every care and comfort that can be obtained. The Commission also supplies these hospitals (to the extent of its means) with sundry medical and surgical appliances, extra hospital clothing and bedding, and various other articles, not issued by Government, and employs additional nurses and dressers.

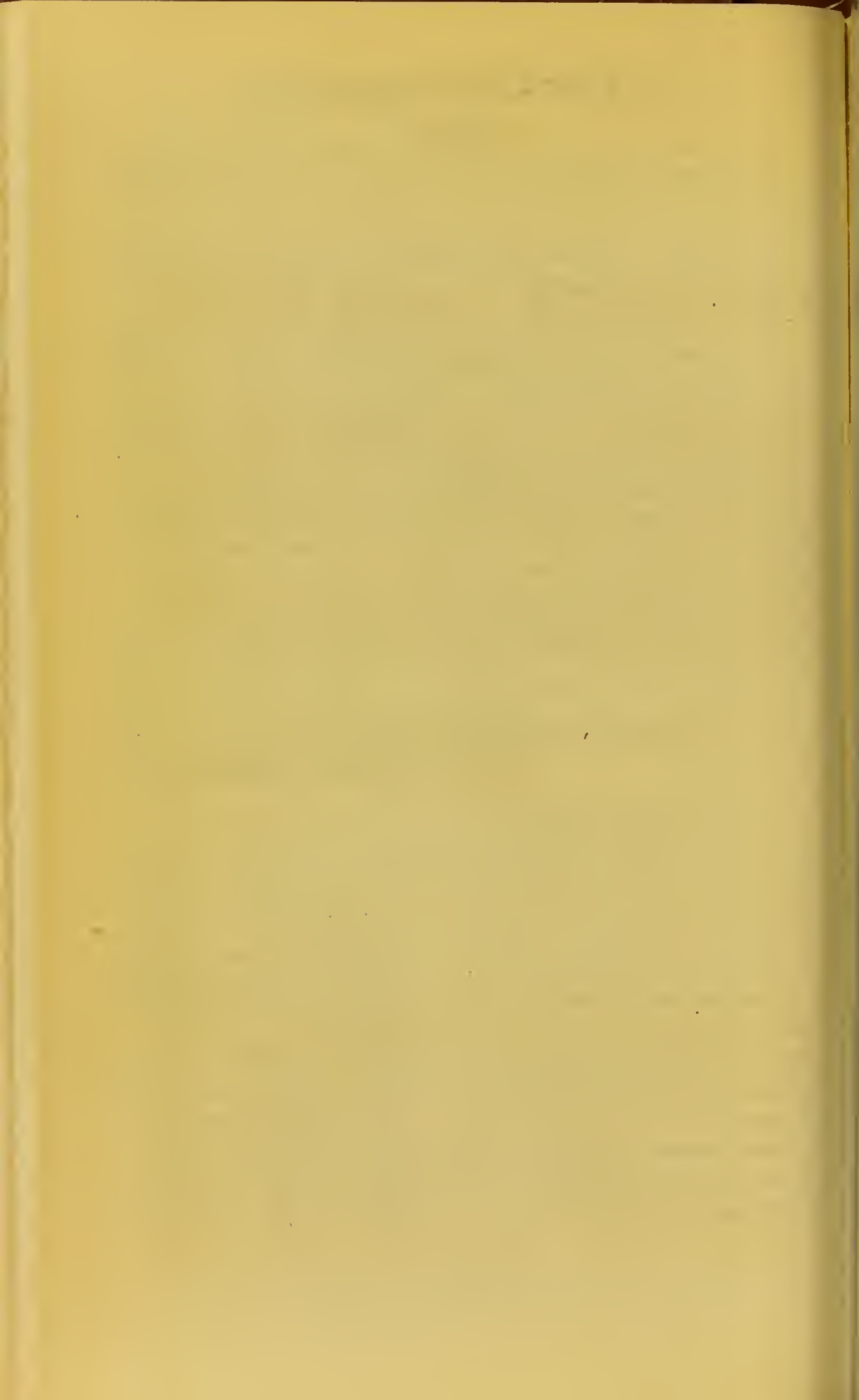
3. The Commission prints and circulates among the volunteers (both officers and men) rules to be observed in regard to sanitary points, and advice as to the means of preserving health while in the field. It is in the daily receipt of stores of various kinds, clothing, bedding, &c., which are distributed from its office in Washington. Funds are required to meet the expenses of their transportation and storage.

For means to carry out these objects, the Commission relies wholly on the liberality of the community. It does not apply to Government for funds, because its moral influence and power of usefulness would be destroyed by any real or supposed connection with political agencies ; and also because it could not expect to obtain from Government means sufficient for the work it has undertaken.

GEORGE T. STRONG, Treasurer.

68 Wall Street, New York, August 23, 1861.





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

NO. 24. *a*

## General Instructions to Sanitary Inspectors.

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NOTE.—It is assumed that the Inspector to whom this is addressed has undertaken to systematically visit a certain section of the army, (either one of the military departments, or a subdivision of a department.) A copy of the *Army Regulations*; of a *Report on Military Hygiene and Therapeutics*; and of the Commission's *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*, will have been furnished him, with the contents of which he is supposed to be familiar. The section of the army is supposed to be mainly in a state of rest, and in camp. If it is in movement, or about to move, or if an engagement is immediately anticipated, or has just occurred, and the officers are therefore likely to be occupied with matters of an unusual and peremptory character, the duties of the Inspector to which these instructions refer must be mainly suspended. Precisely where or how far at such a time it would be judicious to act under them, it must be left to the discretion of the Inspector to determine.

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OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,

*Treasury Building, Washington,*

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To \_\_\_\_\_

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SIR: You will, in the first place, proceed, if practicable, to the head-quarters of the portion of the army which you are to visit, and present your credentials to the General commanding. Having explained to him the objects of your visit, you will request from him such endorsement or aid as will be necessary to your intended further proceedings. It is desirable that you should then see the Medical Director and Medical Purveyor, and other superior medical officers of the troops with which you have to do, explain to them your objects, get from them such general

information as may be desirable, and gain their favor for your purposes. To this end it is chiefly necessary that you make them understand that you will co-operate with and aid them, by helping to remove difficulties which arise from the ignorance and inexperience of the volunteer surgeons.

If the regiments which you are to visit are brigaded, you should also pay your respects to the brigade commander, or the commanding officer of the post, before calling on the regimental officers.

It is required of you, in all cases, in like manner, to show your respect for the regulations for the discipline, order, and rank of the army, as far as practicable, by approaching the inferior by way of the superior officer, and only with a formal or implied approval and endorsement of your purpose by the latter. Unquestionably, the first of all conditions of health of the army is strict discipline. Do all, therefore, in your power to encourage and strengthen a good purpose in this respect; do all in your power to sustain it. Honor in your own conduct the strictest rules of military etiquette, and let it be seen that you expect them to be stringently enforced. Let it be known that you consider no disease so destructive to an army as laxity of discipline. Demand, wherever you properly can do so, that the standard of the volunteers shall be at least as high as that of the regulars in this respect, and reprove any intimation that this is not to be attempted.

On arriving at the camp of a regiment, (supposing that no officer has been detailed by the general to escort you,) ask for the officer of the day, and, stating your business, request him to present you to the colonel or commanding officer of the regiment. Exhibit to the latter your credentials, and, if the opportunity is favorable, endeavor at once to obtain his confidence and co-operation in your business. Be careful that he understands that your office is not to interfere with his, but to aid him in preserving his men from demoralization and loss. Request him to introduce you to the captains, or to send another officer to do so, and endeavor in the same manner to establish a friendly acquaintance with them. At the same time, scrupulously avoid placing yourself on terms with them, or under any obligations.

which you may feel will embarrass you in the exercise of your duties.

The most dangerous idea is often held by volunteer captains of the functions of their office, it being derived apparently from the custom of the militia in peace; when the privates are living at their homes, and the captain has little other duty than to see to the drill of the men and marshal them on parades. In our military organization the company is the unit of the army, and the commanding officers of companies are the principal agents of all the administrative duties of the organization. If a major or lieutenant (not acting as a commander) neglects his duties, the body to which he is attached becomes simply in a certain degree less effective. If a company commander neglects his duty, the men may starve for all that any one else is to do. The captain should be, as has often been said, "the father of his company." Nothing, however small, which affects the comfort, health, strength, and efficiency of his men is beneath his attention. He is the official registrar, and agent of all necessary communication between them and the source of their supplies, as well as with the superior command. He must leave the drill of his company chiefly to his subalterns and non-commissioned officers, for if he pays all necessary attention to his administrative duties, he will have no time to give more than a general superintendence to a task which, in its detail, involves but little exercise of judgment. Upon the thoroughness with which the captains attend to their duty, both in regard to their companies, and, each in his turn, as the officer of the day, superintending the police of the regiment, its health mainly depends. You are, therefore, instructed to make yourself acquainted with the captains, and to cultivate such relations with them as will command a hearty reception for such instruction as you may see occasion to give them.

If necessary, you will point out to them the danger to which men in service are exposed by neglect of sanitary laws, and impress on them the great practical importance of the work with which you are charged. To do this effectively, you should be prepared with a few statistical facts from military history, as, for instance, with the proportion of deaths from disease to deaths from casualties of battle during our Mexican campaign, (more



than 7 to 1.) See also statistics of the Crimean and other campaigns in the *Report on Military Hygiene and Therapeutics*.

Proceed to thoroughly scrutinize the camps, visiting the tents of one company after another; if possible, having the captains of each with you, as you examine it. Do not too much hasten this part of your work, as it will probably be your best opportunity of serving the cause in which you are engaged. The questions of the "Camp Inspection Return," with which you will have been furnished, indicate the more important points which should engage your attention. You are not required to write answers to these questions while walking through the camp; yet it will be best to address most of them, and especially those from 21 to 57, to the company officers, noting their answers, and letting them see that you do so on the "Return;" which thus answers the purpose of a memorandum of matters in which it is generally desirable that instruction should be given. You can afterwards write the answers which, in your judgment, best convey the general facts in question, in ink upon the "Return," and retain this copy as your private memorandum, copying from it upon another sheet for your Return to the Commission. The chief advantage of making your investigation in this manner is the inoffensive mode which it offers you of calling the attention of the officers to the particulars in which they will be found (generally through ignorance) to have neglected their regular duties. Probably in nearly all cases you will be able to trace whatever is wrong (sanitarily considered) to a neglect of some of the requirements of the Regulations, as, for instance, to ¶ 88, which demands of captains "the utmost attention to the cleanliness of their men, as to their persons, clothing, accoutrements, and equipments, and also to their quarters or tents," or to ¶ 111, which requires captains to attend carefully to the messing and economy of their respective companies; to visit kitchens and inspect kettles daily, and colonels to make frequent inspections of kitchens and messes; or ¶ 96, which requires non-commissioned officers to see that all the privates properly wash their hands and faces, and comb their hair.

Endeavor by every means in your power to remind the officers of these orders, and of the necessity of their strict obedience to them, to the safety and credit of the regiment. Explain to them

that they are based upon a universal military experience, that disastrous consequences inevitably follow the neglect of such precautions as they are intended to secure. Let them know that, although the outbreak of malignant or epidemic disease in camps and quarters can be almost certainly prevented, it can seldom be suppressed after having once broken out, by any measures however energetic, and never without great destruction of life. Point out to them the various sources of mischief that are to be anticipated, and explain in what way defects in camp-police, ventilation, drainage, cooking, water, &c., are sure to operate injuriously, especially in the destruction of the *esprit du corps* and *morale* of the soldier.

From an examination of the tents of each company, pass to its kitchen. Examine the cooking utensils, the fuel—which is generally extravagantly wasted—the rations which have been drawn, and, if there is an opportunity, taste the cooked food, and criticise the cooking. Endeavor to stimulate an ambition to make wholesome and palatable food with the existing rations, by a skillful method of cooking with the simple utensils furnished by Government and the camp fire. Every soldier should be a good camp cook, and he is not a good camp cook who requires a cooking stove or a large assortment of utensils. As a great variety of cooking stoves intended for camps are in use, when you meet with these, it will be well to notice the relative value of the different patterns as tested by experience. But do not encourage the opinion that any of them, or anything not provided for by Government, is necessary to the comfort or efficiency of the soldier. Foster a spirit of simplicity, frugality, and hardihood in this as in all things.

Subsequently, you will call on the quartermaster and commissary, and investigate the method of making requisitions, (these should come from the captains in the first place, and be “consolidated” by the colonel: see forms 13 and 14, Army Reg., p. 228;) of receiving and accounting for supplies; of dividing the rations for companies; of subdividing for individuals; and again, of dividing with reference to time, (so that ten days’ allowance shall not be exhausted in nine, &c.) If you hear complaint of insufficient food, look closely at these points, for it is

unquestionable that, with honesty and a moderate degree of providence, there will always be more than enough. Ascertain if company funds have been formed. (See ¶ 197, Army Reg., page 27.) Unless the regiment has been recently much on the march, the want of company funds affords in itself strong presumptive evidence of knavery or of incompetency of officers. This incompetency, however, is generally merely the result of ignorance and inexperience. You may therefore hope by your instructions to remedy it.

It is not necessary that the whole of the camp should be visited the same day; and it will be better, if any of the captains are absent, to pass on to general matters, as the sinks, the stables, and the shambles, or to some other regiment, and return at another time, rather than fail to obtain the attendance of each captain in your examination of the tents and the kitchen of his company.

Give attention to the sutler's store. A sutler should be engaged for each regiment, and the regulations prescribed in the Articles of War (Art. 29) and the Army Regulations (¶ 202 to 209, p. 28,) stringently enforced upon him. He should be required to keep every essential article for a healthy soldier's comfort, not provided by the quartermaster, such as brushes, blacking, needles and thread, pipes and tobacco, and he should not be allowed to offer anything likely to prove unwholesome to the men, such as green fruit and leathery pies. Where diarrhoea prevails, both the sutler and itinerant venders should be sharply looked after in this respect.

Having obtained an introduction in your official capacity to the regimental surgeon, it will not generally be difficult for you to gain his confidence and good will, for your duty will lead you to magnify his office, and if he properly appreciates its responsibilities and difficulties, he will value the service you will be able to render him.

It is the duty of the surgeon to point out whatever is unfavorable to the health of the regiment, and to suggest the proper remedy. You should encourage him to make and to persevere in making such suggestions, and wherever possible, consistently with your judgment, should add the weight of your own influence



to his advice. You may find it necessary to remind the surgeon that he becomes responsible for the existence and continuance of any unjustifiable sanitary condition pertaining to the camp or to the management of the regiment against which he does not perseveringly expostulate.

It is difficult to define the rights and the duties of regimental surgeons, because these vary so much with circumstances. The medical and surgical provision for a regiment on detached service of a special kind should be altogether different from that of a regiment quartered with many others in the immediate vicinity of a general hospital. The regulations were not formed with reference to large armies in the field, and are not perfectly adapted to the circumstances in which our volunteer surgeons at present find themselves. A patient study of their provisions will, nevertheless, disclose the means of remedying most of the difficulties, of which you will hear much complaint. When this is not the case, an appeal may be made to the medical director, or, if necessary, to the major general commanding, who, for a special purpose, can override the restrictions ordinarily placed upon the supply of medical stores and hospital conveniences.

Inexperienced regimental surgeons will generally be found to err in attempting to maintain too complicated and extensive hospital arrangements, and in undertaking to deal with cases for which proper supplies and accommodations cannot be provided, except in fixed general hospitals. There should be nothing in a regimental hospital to stand in the way of sudden and rapid movements; and whenever a cure cannot shortly be expected, patients should be transferred to a general hospital. In some cases, however, this will not be possible; and when you meet with these, you are expected to do all in your power to obtain such supplies as are immediately needed, and which cannot be got by official process. This may be done either by requisition upon the stores of the Commission, by an appeal to local charity, or, when necessary, by a moderate expenditure of money on account of the Commission. Whenever practicable, special authority for this purpose may be requested by telegraph.

Regimental surgeons also frequently err in the opposite extreme, sending patients to general hospital who have some simple



illness which would yield to judicious treatment, even under canvas, in a few days. Experience is needed to enable the judgment to be exercised confidently in discriminating between proper and improper cases for camp treatment, and your opportunities of observation and comparison will stand you in place of an extended experience in this respect. It is your primary duty, as it is that of the regimental surgeon, not to take care of the sick, but to guard against whatever weakens or embarrasses the use of the greatest possible strength of the regiment for warlike purposes. The surgeon's stores, and the hospital, and the ambulance, should all be instruments to the end of the utmost possible rapidity, spirit, and force of movement in the regiment. Discourage whatever really weakens the regiment; encourage whatever tends to strengthen it against the enemy. Oftentimes tenderness to individuals is not true humanity; and the surgeon whose baggage impedes an advance or a retreat may easily be the cause of more suffering than the one who carries the hospital stores for a regiment in a knapsack, or whose medicines and instruments are all conveyed in a pocket case.

The surgeon should be prepared for battle duty. If he has an ambulance, has he a trusty driver for it, and an ambulance corps, upon which he can depend under fire? Do they know how to lift and carry a man with shattered limbs? Do they know that water is more precious than gold to those who follow the track of a battle, and are they instructed how to secure it and administer it providently? Beds and sheets and wine and delicate food in the hospital tent are of little consequence to the regiment compared with these preparations. It is usual to employ the band as an ambulance corps, but it will be of little service unless previously drilled for the duty, and habituated to obey commands from the surgeon.

Having completed your survey of the camp, call again on the commanding officer, and acquaint him, in such a manner as you judge will be most likely to have the desired effect, with whatever you have seen to be important sanitary defects of the camp; question him if they cannot be remedied, or point out the proper remedies. Full and specific directions for this purpose cannot be given you. The Commissioners depend mainly on your general

knowledge of the conditions of health, and upon your ingenuity and tact in so dealing in each case as will under the circumstances best contribute to the desired result. The present instructions have reference only to the more common defects of camps, and to remedies of general application.

With regard to the selections of camp sites, and the proper precautions for the lodging of the men, you will find useful hints in the *Report on Military Hygiene*, p. 10; also in *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*, ¶ 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, p. 6.

As experience proves that every camp ground becomes poisoned or malarious (it is supposed from the accumulated emanations from the bodies of the men) after thirty days, at most, of occupation, you will urge on the colonel the importance of frequent changes of position, even if only to a few hundred yards distance, and it may be best for you to indicate a safe and advantageous site to which the camp may be removed. Camp sites lately vacated should in no case be re-occupied. Looking to sanitary conditions alone, a camp site cannot be changed too often. Such change also tends to break up the monotony of camp-life, and improves the moral tone of the men.

In studying the salubrity of a position, you should not neglect to observe the character of the subsoil. Should it be damp or hard and impervious, it will generally be your duty to urge a change of position. If a change for the better cannot be made, you should recommend the most careful drainage without delay. Should the camp be on a side-hill, you will especially recommend catch-water drains above it, and around its sides, by which the flow of water from the upper part of the hill will be effectually diverted.

You will endeavor to secure also in every case the digging of a trench (the deeper the better, but at least six inches deep) around each tent or hut. These trenches should be connected, as far as may be, according to the nature of the ground, with main drains, so as to carry off rain water. They should be made as straight as practicable, as all sinuosities arrest the flow of water, and lead to stagnation. The sides should be cut sloping.

You will urge, if you see occasion, that all drains, (especially those around tents and huts) should be kept clean, and that refuse food, &c., be not thrown into them. If they become offensive, they should be cleaned out at once, and disinfected with lime or charcoal.

As, under the most favorable circumstances, tents must be expected to be crowded, urge the commanding officer, if he has not already done so, to make immediate and, if necessary, repeated requisitions for all the tents to which the regiment is entitled. (See Regulations, ¶ 1034, page 133; "Allowance of camp and garrison equipage.") It will sometimes be in the power of the commanding officer to erect huts for a portion of his command. By this means the number required to lodge in the tents may be reduced.

Both in tents and huts, or citizens' houses occupied by soldiers, if they afford proper shelter, there is generally a deficient ventilation, which is often the parent of much disease. Wherever you find this to be the case, you must endeavor to devise some immediately practicable remedy or improvement, such as cutting square openings in the ends of tents, to be covered with canvas flaps, fastened down when necessary by lacings, or, in a house, opening additional windows, or establishing wooden flues through the building. Where it is feasible, ventilation may be very greatly improved by introducing a lighted lamp or candle into such flue. A Sibley tent may be effectually ventilated by hanging a lantern near the roof. Any large building occupied as a hospital will require immediate attention, and no time should be lost in providing it with perfect ventilation.

In all cases you will visit the privies of the camp, and let it be seen that you regard the manner in which they are formed and kept as most seriously affecting the character of the regiment, as it is sure to have an important relation to its sanitary condition. A proper arrangement of the privies, and the usual method employed in well-organized armies of keeping them, is described in ¶ 14, page 5, of the *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*.

You will advise that the manure and litter of all horses and cattle be collected, removed from camp and covered with earth,



or burned, at short and regular intervals ; and also that the offal of cattle slaughtered near any camp or post be buried at once, and at sufficient depth. See page 13, *Report on Military Hygiene*.

You will observe whether men are in the habit of throwing away refuse food or slops anywhere and at random, or of doing anything else that tends to make the atmosphere of the camp unwholesome. If such practices prevail, you will use every means in your power to put a stop to them.

You will ascertain whether quicklime or sulphate of lime (plaster of Paris) can be readily obtained in large quantities for purposes of disinfection ; and if so, recommend its free use. The use of lime is to be especially urged for the whitewashing of hospitals, quarters, &c. If neither of these articles are at hand, you will remember that charcoal (either wood or peat) is among the best and most efficient of deodorizers or disinfectants, and urge that men be detailed to burn a supply of this material, and that it be copiously used.

If the water supplied to the men is impure or unwholesome, you will endeavor to devise some mode of improving it, however rough and temporary—as, for instance, aeration, by letting it fall from one vessel to another, or filtration through a barrel half full of coarsely-powdered charcoal. At the western camps, and in many portions of Virginia, special attention must be paid to this subject. All springs should be carefully cleaned and secured by surrounding them with a barrel, or with masonry. All springs and wells should be inspected from time to time, and be kept always under a guard. Wells should be cleaned out with care, especially in cases of epidemic. They are apt to become foul, from matters carelessly or wantonly thrown into them. They are then fruitful sources of disease.

If you find that clothing or other articles furnished by contract have proved so grossly defective as to indicate fraud on the part of the contractor, you will report all particulars in regard thereto, and will also forward written statements, under oath or otherwise, on which the Commission can determine whether criminal proceedings against the contractor can be instituted with any prospect of success.



You will pay particular attention to the quality of the rations, and the mode of cooking them.

If they are unwholesome from bad cookery, you will point out the defect, and urge its remedy. See ¶ 8, 9, 10, and 11, of *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*.

Should you find the meal-times of the soldiers less regular than they might be, you will urge the necessity of correcting the evil as far as possible, as it is known to be provocative of diarrhoea and other disorders.

You will keep in view the importance of varying the rations, and of supplying the men with fresh vegetables, as far as practicable.

You will recommend the use of beds of hemlock, pine, or cedar boughs where they can be readily had. If straw be so used, it should be taken to a distance from camp and burned at least once a week.

All plank floorings of tents should be raised at least once a week, and the ground under them covered with lime or charcoal.

Tents should be raised and their interior and floors exposed to direct sunlight every fine day, if possible. They should be struck, turned inside out, and thoroughly sunned, and the plank floors, if any, raised and sunned once a week, at least.

Since men are apt to spend their pay as soon as received thoughtlessly, and to their own injury, forgetting the wants of their families at home, you will consider the feasibility of organizing clubs or associations among them for the systematic saving or remittance of the whole or a part of their pay to those dependent on them for subsistence. And if it be practicable, you will endeavor, with the concurrence of the officers, to get up societies for that purpose in each regiment.

Accompanying your "return" upon the printed form, send to this office a written report of any especial characteristic of the camp of which information will not otherwise have been given, and especially state the more important particulars of the advice which you have given to the regimental, company, or medical officers, and wherein you have been able to be of assistance to them. Report if any of the officers exhibit marked peculiarities

of character or habits, likely to much affect the condition of the regiment, especially if any of them appear to be unusually well or ill qualified for their duties.

If you have found your advice disregarded, and important sanitary precautions persistently neglected, without sufficient military or other reasons therefor, address the proper officer on the subject in writing, stating the grounds of your advice. Take pains to do this in such a manner as not to cause irritation or give offence, and, at the end of the week, send a copy of your letter to this office, together with any answer which may have been given you.

Having made one return for each regiment in accordance with the foregoing instructions, a record of subsequent visits should be made in the form of a diary. In this, all important changes which have occurred since previous reports should be noticed; and especially it should be stated whether and how far advice previously given has been followed, and with what results. This official diary should be kept on foolscap sheets, with a wide margin, so it can be bound with others, and should be transmitted to this office weekly, together with a concise general report of the sanitary condition of the department, including a statement of the prevailing diseases and tendencies of disease. It is not required that this report shall be accurate, but that it shall express the result of your judgment upon the information which has reached you.

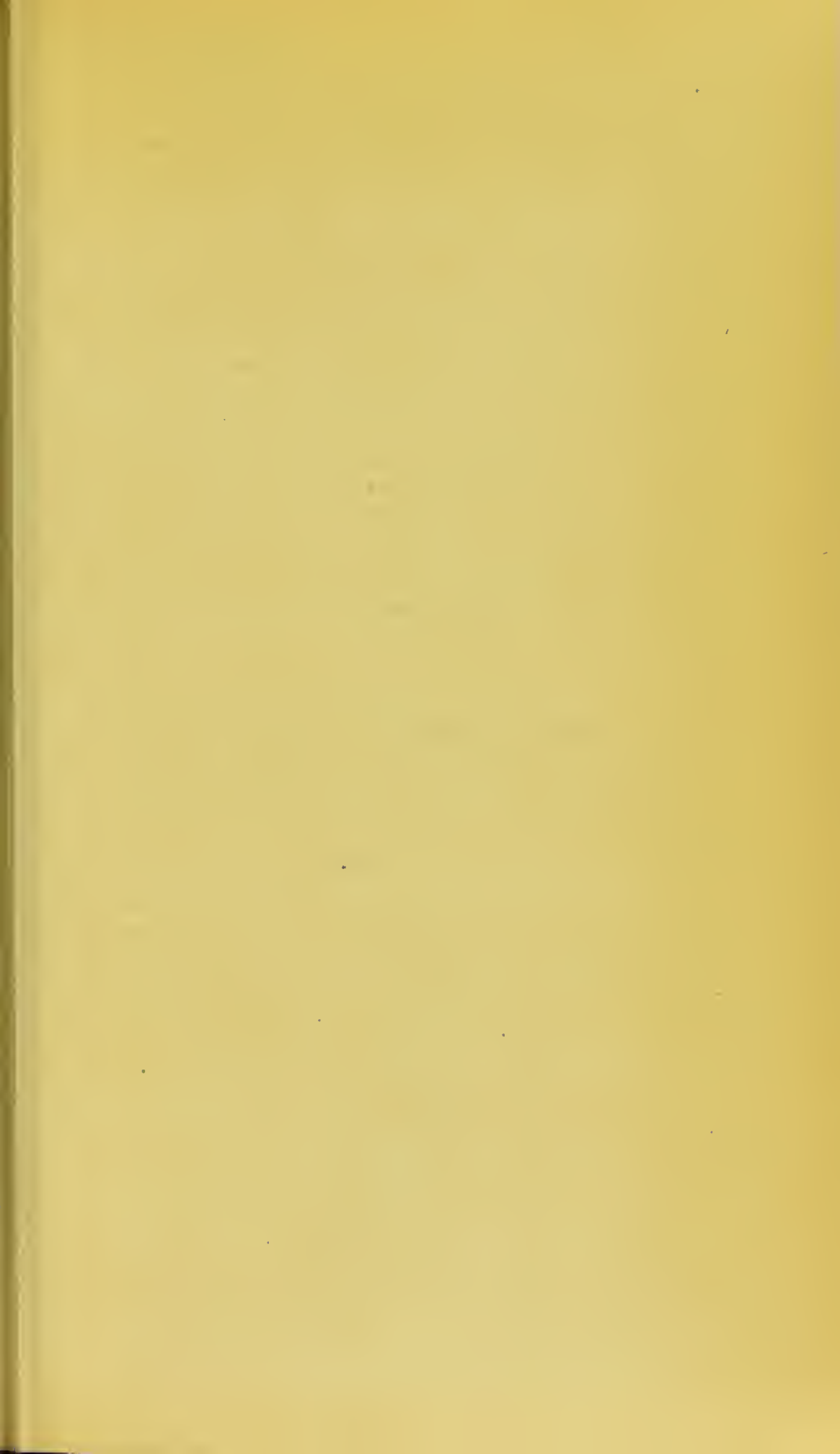
Whenever you see occasion, advise action which you think desirable to be taken by the Commission or to be initiated at Washington. On urgent occasions, communicate directly with the Governors of States or other authorities, sending copies of your communications to this office.

Your obedient servant,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Secretary.*









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# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 26.

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## NOTES OF A PRELIMINARY SANITARY SURVEY OF THE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN THE

Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, near Midsummer, 1861,

BY H. W. BELLOWS, D. D., PRESIDENT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

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Read before the Board, July 10th, 1861, and ordered to be printed.

FRED. LAW OLMSTEAD, *Secretary*.

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JUNE 28, 1861.

### CAMP DENNISON, OHIO,

Is situated on the line of the Cincinnati and Columbus railroad, about fifteen miles north of Cincinnati. It is a wide and open common, well adapted as a whole to the purpose. The drainage is imperfect. The general police of the camp is only tolerable—the sinks not being carefully situated, and, in parts, the odor from them both disagreeable and dangerous, as the prevailing winds have not been considered in their position. Little attention had been given among the medical men to sanitary considerations, up to the time of our visit. They generally complained of inability to procure supplies, of unacquaintance with the forms of officials through whom they were to be obtained, and of the carelessness and inefficiency of the State authorities, both in the original outfit of the soldiers and in the attention paid to their wants since. A general burst of dissatisfaction was directed towards Governor Dennison, who was pronounced good-natured and well meaning, but wretchedly inefficient, and easily managed by designing speculators. A contract which he had made for feeding the troops at sixty cents apiece a day (more expensive than hotel fare in all but the best hotels for regular boarders in that region) had been broken up by public indignation.

The cooking of the camp seemed conducted in a very uneconomical and shiftless manner, and the general appearance of the men, and their manners and ways, in my cursory visit of three hours, (which can boast



no accuracy of observation,) did not strike me as favorably as in the other camps I have visited. General Bates, in command, appeared a dignified and commanding soldier, and is no doubt doing the best for his men, who are officered in the semi-political and semi-accidental fashion of most volunteer regiments. They complained of the difficulty of keeping the men from passing the lines; and I saw one man, a little under the influence of strong drink, a soldier, brutally knocked down, and his scalp cut open to the depth of a finger, by a sentry whom he was wrangling with about passing out. An officer was brought into the hospital who, twenty minutes before, had been thrown from his horse, and who appeared paralyzed on one side, and was probably fatally injured. A good deal of drinking was complained of in this camp.

The hospitals (regimental) were comfortable, and decently furnished, although there seemed to be a scarcity of attendance, particularly in the general hospital, which was roomy and already quite full of patients. Diarrhœa, pneumonia, measles, and typhoid fever had been the common complaints. It was obvious that the recruiting had been careless, and the men who were sick were mainly those who should never have been permitted to enter the service. Twenty-eight of the cases were removed in the train in which I went down, to the private military hospital just established by Dr. Muzzey, in a spirit of high professional benevolence, at Cincinnati. The few surgeons I saw welcomed me with great cordiality, and seemed much relieved at the prospect of having a friend at headquarters to overcome their present desperate obstacles in getting either information or supplies. Dr. J. M. White was particularly desirous of co-operating in every way with the Sanitary Committee, and promised to try to bring together the medical men in a general council, as often as possible, to consider the interests of the camp. As Camp Dennison is likely to be the resort of troops all summer, it is of the utmost importance that an agent of ours should be there to look after its sanitary condition as often as every other week. There seems to be a very poor preparation made against any increase of illness with the advance of hot weather.

Dr. Muzzey, who met me by appointment at Camp Dennison, promised to give a special eye to its condition, and to send in a fuller report, after thorough examination, both as to its present wants and its future prospects.

Sisters of Charity were making themselves useful in one of the hospitals in Dr. White's (Kentucky) regiment.

There is no military hospital in Cincinnati but Dr. Muzzey's. The United States Marine Hospital there—a fine edifice, built three or four years ago at an expense, it is said, (land and all,) of \$200,000, evidently on the model and I suspect by the same contractor as the marine hospital

at St. Louis, of which it is almost a duplicate—had laid entirely idle since its erection, being in charge of a steward at \$600 a year, who presided over the empty building. Meanwhile the real and proper claimants on its privileges, the boatmen, sick and disabled on the rivers, were farmed out to the Commercial Hospital in Cincinnati at \$5 per week. I visited them there, and found about fifty in the uncomfortable ward of that miserable, not to say disgraceful, building—an old tumble-down edifice, behind-hand in all respects—with men eating at table in the same ward in which they slept, and with poor evidence in any department of the cleanliness and order now demanded by humanity in such institutions. The steward, a highly intelligent man, seemed doing his best, and grieved over the lack of a proper building in which to lay out his pains. A very excellent and distinguished surgeon attends it.

Dr. Muzzey had succeeded in obtaining permission from the Government to occupy the empty Marine Hospital, and had partially filled its bare and spacious wards with accommodations for the sick. Already nearly fifty cases of sick soldiers had been thrown upon his hospitality. The voluntary supplies came in slowly, however, although the doctor had been promised the active co-operation of many citizens. He wanted volunteer nurses, and beds and bedding, and medicines, and almost everything. It is hoped that Cincinnati will freely assist this distinguished surgeon in his single-handed endeavor to supply the lack of a public military hospital. The abuses of the United States Marine Hospitals are worthy of the attention of a special committee, directed to visit every one of them, and report minutely their separate history, cost, age, use, and present condition. It is feared that they would turn out to be a systematic fraud on the public treasury, made with the connivance or inadvertence of successive administrations, under the alleged necessities of party spoils. They afford opportunities for the sale of costly pieces of ground, and the erection under profitable contracts of expensive edifices, and then the appointment to lazy offices of resident stewards, and the salarizing of attendant physicians. Being under the control of the Treasury Department, they fall into the hands of the collectors of the ports where they are situated, and by them are, I suspect, generally administered, as at St. Louis, in a perfectly careless manner. Their combined cost, and the money expended in maintaining them, often in a ruinous state, would, considering the small amount of usefulness reaped from them, present them, taken altogether, as one of the most unjustifiable abuses of the public funds; and if they are sustained, as is affirmed, out of the money paid by the marines themselves, it makes the misconduct of their trustees, the United States Government, only additionally reprehensible.

JULY 1, 1861.

## CAIRO.

This highly important strategical point, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, now holds, within two miles of its apex, about five thousand men. Two regiments are at Bird's Point, just opposite, on the Missouri shore, and a few companies are stationed a few miles up on the west bank of the Ohio. The ground, which is very low, is defended, by a lofty and now quite solid levee or dyke on three sides, from overflow from the occasional sudden and excessive freshets of the two rivers. It is deemed already quite secure against any future flood, as much has been done since 1858, when it suffered seriously, to strengthen these embankments. A feud exists between the three companies representing the business of the place—the original Cairo City Company, the Illinois Central, and the Wharf Company—who are at loggerheads with each other and with the citizens, who are opposed to them all. The land company, by holding its lots at excessive prices, stands in the way of the city's growth, and in its own light. The Illinois Central, it is complained, has not fulfilled its own contracts with this company; and the wharf monopoly discourages the citizens. The consequence of all this is a discouraged and paralyzed community, where nature and circumstances have provided for a prosperous and growing city. Neither the exposure nor the climate warrants the bad reputation and slow growth of Cairo. It is perfectly defensible from the waters at a moderate expense, and is capable of being thoroughly drained, and, indeed, of being raised throughout its whole area to the height of its levees, which ought to be the level of the future city. An enlightened policy would effect this in a very few years after war has ceased, provided the companies that now smother the place would enter with zeal and alacrity into it. The back country on both sides of Cairo is undeveloped, and, perhaps, is not promising; but the Illinois Central, running through that immensely fertile State, and terminating here, is a back country in itself, capable of building up a great city. The immense commerce concentrating at this point of perpetual open navigation, low enough down to escape all serious influence from ice, and at a point where water never fails for large boats, would itself, properly utilized, create a fine city here. The necessity of erecting a United States fortress at this point is now very apparent, and probably the problems of the health of the point and its commercial importance will be so tested by the necessary presence of thousands of troops through the war, as to do for the reputation and making of the place more than peace itself could have done in many years.



Cairo, though low, is now neither damp, muddy, nor unhealthy. The water which stands in the plain a few inches deep, after a heavy rain, very soon, owing to the sandy character of the soil, disappears. Engines are at work, also, to drain the surplus surface water off into the river. The army has cleared away some thousands of stumps from the central plain of Cairo, and created a very fine parade of two or three miles long, and a mile or so broad. Col. Paine's regiment was chiefly active in this good work, which will prove of lasting service to Cairo. The general health of the place is testified to by an intelligent resident physician (a Virginian) as being better than at most points on the Ohio and Mississippi. Fever and ague does not abound, and there seemed to be a general testimony among the army surgeons there that the health of the troops was as good as at any other point where so many men were collected. The sick list showed us about 250 on their backs in a force of 6,000, which, at the close of June and 1st July, is not an excessive number. The open, airy character of Cairo, situated between two rivers, which act by their unequal currents as perpetual ventilators, saves it from the influence of the malarious airs which seem to blow over it, and produce their mischievous effects in the high lands beyond, on bluffs crowned with wood, at Villa Ridge, clothed with a forest obstructing the free passage of winds, and occasioning, perhaps, by a cooler atmosphere, a precipitation of the poison at a particular level. Cairo proves more healthful than would be supposed from its apparently exposed position.

The Mississippi water has a general reputation for wholesomeness. The Missouri mud, with which it is charged, in settling, carries down whatever vegetable or animal substance may exist in the water, and leaves it, though still colored, comparatively pure. The Ohio water, being more conveniently reached, is, however, chiefly used by the troops. They had all suffered diarrhoea from the use of this water, or from change. It took about a fortnight to accustom them to it. The surgeons were doubting the expediency of going into the use of the Mississippi water, from fear that another change might produce another access of the same complaint. But it was promised that careful experiments should be made in the relative effects of the two kinds of water. A filtering system was proposed. Fortunately, large ice-houses already existed in Cairo, well filled, which have been a great comfort to the troops.

The camp police of Cairo was not good; the men being shockingly remiss in the use of the sinks, which are badly situated and poorly constructed. Cleanliness was not observed; the camp showed a great deal of garbage and waste water lying about. The officers complained



bitterly of the carelessness of the men in all these respects. The medical force was very excellent in quality and service; the hospitals usually good and cleanly; always too much crowded, and even when this was not necessary. There was the same difficulty about procuring stores. The regiments had fortunately come from Chicago chiefly well provided in these respects with medicines, &c.; but all their fresh wants they did not know how to provide for. Some of the physicians were absent at the examination at Springfield and Washington. The arrival of the medical director, Dr. Simmons, U. S. A., an intelligent and earnest gentleman, seemed to promise relief, as he at once undertook to instruct them in the means of procuring what they needed from the regular sources. There were no ambulances in the place, and few surgical instruments. The same kind of complaints—measles, diarrhœa, pneumonia, rheumatism, and typhoid fever—prevailed; but the types of disease were commonly mild.

There was great need of an immediate enlargement of the general hospital. The following letter, addressed to the medical director before we left, will perhaps show sufficiently in detail what our general conclusions were. The details of the survey I have not thought it worth while to record, as there was little diversity among the regiments.

The men, on the whole, were a fine, soldierly body, doing great credit to many of their officers. There were admirable officers among them, although many inefficient ones. The commanding general, General Prentiss, uniformly appeared, even on horseback at dress parade, with a cigar in his mouth; but he was a *teetotaller*. The brigade appeared, in its general turn-out, a formidable and valuable body, though not equal to the men at Alton.

CAIRO, July 1, 1861.

SIR—The "Sanitary Commission," lately appointed by the United States Government, beg leave to suggest, as the results of their inspection of this post, a few points to which no doubt your own experienced judgment will draw your attention at an early day, but to which it can, at least, do no harm to add the testimony of the Commission.

1. They find the *mortality* of the men during the whole period of their stay here surprisingly small, while the degree of sickness itself has been far less than was to have been expected. The diseases have been usually mild in type. There is abundant evidence that the location of Cairo is more healthful than is either commonly supposed or than a superficial view of its topographical position would warrant. The high lands to the north, at Villa Ridge, where troops have been placed, are clearly very unhealthy, both from the interruption of the air-currents by the forest, and from other circumstances, determining the collection and settlement of malarious influences at that elevation.

2. According to a prevailing opinion here, the use of the *Ohio* water has been the principle cause of diarrhœa, which more than any com-

plaint has prevailed. It is very desirable that the question of the preference to be given to the use of the Mississippi water should be settled by careful examination; and that the present imperfect filtering apparatus should be changed for some thorough kind.

3. The hospitals are generally in excellent condition, considering the disadvantages under which they have been organized. They are too crowded; the due amount of air not being furnished to each patient. The ventilation is still incomplete. The erection of at least three-fold the present accommodation in the brigade hospital, is, in our judgement, indispensable against the inevitable increase of illness with the introduction of the summer fruits in August, and the ordinary exasperation of malarious disorders to be expected in September and October. An immediate preparation we deem very urgent in this direction.

4. The camp police is generally bad; the sinks wrongly placed, and their use not enforced. There is too much neglect in the removal of offal and slops. A total disregard of direction of winds is obvious in the selection of places for sinks. A terrible nuisance, in the shape of a slaughter-house, corrupts the atmosphere in the neighborhood of Col. McArthur's camp. The rear of the hotel is foul enough to make another Washington hotel disease. It needs immediate attention.

5. The scurvey needs to be wholly eradicated by a greater use of fresh vegetables, which are now inaccessible from obstacles of one kind and another in the commissariat, all of which might be corrected by a better acquaintance with the regulations.

6. There is a very general testimony in favor of the volunteer WOMEN NURSES; and it is suggested that, for volunteers, their services are peculiarly necessary and politic, and that the rules governing "Regulars" cannot with entire safety be applied to them in this respect. However, it is deemed proper to add, that the unwillingness of captains to detail *nurses* for the hospitals should be resisted and corrected in the name of humanity.

7. A rigid application of the United States inspection regulations to the men about to be mustered in for the war from the three months' force, is warmly recommended as an act of great final economy of life and efficiency.

8. A weekly gathering of the whole medical force in the camp, for mutual discussion, counsel, and comparison of views, under the leading of the medical director, is thought very desirable.

9. The introduction of greater system into the cooking, of regularity in the hours for eating, and of a closer imitation of the usages of Regulars in these respects, is also advised, particularly with those enlisting for the war.

10. A general commendation of the medical force here gathered has prevailed with the Commission, who find great reason to admire and respect the efforts and pains taken to overcome, under great difficulties, the obstacles in the way of procuring hospital accommodation and medical stores. There is a lack of surgical instruments, blankets, and comforts for convalescing patients. The cots in use are six inches *short*. They are uniformly too near together. Some additional bathing-rooms

are needed, although there has been unusual attention paid to these matters by the intelligent corps of physicians at Cairo.

11. The character of the *material* at Cairo is, in a military point of view, excellent. The regiments are now, with two exceptions, decently clothed, but, with only one exception, poorly equipped. The barracks are usually good, well arranged, fairly kept, and comfortable. The men do not complain of sleeping on the hard boards, which they mostly prefer to hay. The drainage of the camp is decently good, thanks to a porous soil, and the efforts of the general and chief engineer. The appearance of the men on parade is exceedingly satisfactory and honorable to their chief officers. There are evidently some inefficient captains in command.

These suggestions claim no authority, and are given purely in a friendly sympathy with the medical director. The Commission congratulate the camp, the surgeons, the public, and themselves on his arrival, and cheerfully and hopefully commit to his care and experience the invaluable lives of so large a body of citizen soldiery.

Wishing you a successful administration of the medical and sanitary affairs of Cairo, we are, respectfully and cordially, your friends and fellow-laborers.

HENRY W. BELLOWS.

*President of the Sanitary Commission.*

JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D.

W. H. MUZZEY, *Associate.*

To Dr. SIMMONS, U. S. A.,

*Medical Director at Cairo.*

P. S.—The total absence of ambulances at this point will not escape your early attention.

The hospital arrangements of the Fourth Missouri regiment, Col. Scheutner, are very inadequate. The sick there are only 15 in hospital, and 85 in camp, of whom 50 ought immediately to go into hospital. The case came under our notice only this afternoon, and would have modified some statements had it been earlier known. It requires instant attention.

H. W. B.

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JULY 2, 1861.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

I have just visited the 13th Illinois regiment, Col. J. D. Wyman, and the 22d regiment from the same State, volunteers, at Caseyville, Camp McClellan.

Col. Wyman, of the 13th regiment, is in command of both regiments. The camp of the 13th is very much crowded, and needs nearly double the number of tents it has to make the men comfortable. Col. Wyman complains of the inattention of the quartermaster general at Springfield, and is very much perplexed, because he has conflicting orders from General McClellan and from General Lyon, both of whom claim his



obedience. Of course his men must suffer many evils until the question is finally determined. The colonel has been paying out his own money to make his men comfortable. Owing to the goodness of his position, on an open and dry plain, and to the convenience of good well water, there is no sickness of any importance in his camp, eight being the total number in the hospital. He is likely to move either to the St. Louis arsenal or to Cairo at any moment.

The 22d regiment, Col. Dougherty, is in a wretched condition. It is encamped only half a mile to the east of the 13th. But it is in a valley, beneath very shady trees, and under the lee of some hills, all which combine to make the miasmatic atmosphere stagnate at the spot, as the winds have no circulation. They have been there only 13 days, but have at least 250 men out of about 900 more or less sick with camp dysentery. This is due in part to the situation, but in part also to the water, which is positively black and disgusting. It is taken from some pits sunk in a kind of half stagnant gutter, in the other end of which the pigs are rooting. All the water they have is from this wretched source, and they have not enough even of this. Of course they mix worse rum with this bad water, and the men are poisoned.

The hospital is in a room hired for the occasion, which is a perfect pig-sty for nastiness. The accommodations are only for, say five and twenty, and the sick are 250. The steward (for both surgeon and assistant were absent) had made fifty prescriptions to-day, and was not through yet. This camp has no hospital tents or stores, except what it borrows from the 13th. The surgeon of that regiment is also absent. There is evidently a gross neglect in these easy absences, granted at a time when no excuse should suffice to absent the doctor, who is so sadly wanted. The 22d should be moved immediately.

The camp police is very imperfect. Rotten bones and other nuisances lay about the camp. Col. Wyman appeared to be very solicitous to do his duty, but was puzzled how to get what he needed for his men.

There had been five men carelessly wounded by bayonets in his regiment, and one valuable officer shot dead in consequence of the inexperience of a sentry.

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JULY 3, 1861.

#### JEFFERSON BARRACKS

Is situated 11 miles below St. Louis, on the west bank of the Mississippi, on a bluff from 100 to 200 feet above the river, opposite the great American bottom, 60 miles long and 7 wide. The S. S. E. winds from the bottom blow the malaria of the swamp on to the bluff, which has been accounted usually a very unhealthy position. It has improved, however,



in this respect, by clearing. The barracks were built by the soldiers mainly about 30 years ago. They are rapidly falling into a delapidated state. They are commonly very little used, but from time to time are employed for purposes of organizing regiments, and, as such, have been very useful since the present troubles began. Major McCrae, in command, has been there 18 months; the chaplain, Dr. Fish, eight years. There is usually next to nothing to do; often there being only three or four men there, and the general hospital wholly closed.

The present aspect of the barracks is disgraceful; 1,600 acres of land surround them, wholly uncultivated. The buildings are dirty and dilapidated. The 4,000 volunteers who, in bodies of 1,000 or less, have passed through the barracks during the last few weeks, are said, by Major McCrae, to have greatly increased the difficulty. He complains of the officers as being raw, ignorant, and incapable of exercising any discipline. This is the real difficulty in the present military movement—the dreadful ignorance and inefficiency of the officers. The men are usually a noble body of raw soldiery. The ceilings of the guard-house and of the barracks generally are broken.

The general hospital is not a bad building for the purpose, 182 feet long, and 24 wide, two stories high, with a finished attic, all in decent repair; ventilation good; the access from one story to the next only by outside stairs, which is bad. The requisition is made yearly only for new bedding and stores. There is no resident doctor—Dr. Bailey spending his time in town as medical purveyor, although sleeping at the barracks. There were 29 in the hospital July 3; among them several cases from Boonesville; 100 could be accommodated.

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JULY 4, 1861.

Hearing that there were four regiments at Alton, 21 miles north of St. Louis, left at six o'clock to visit the camp; arrived at 10 o'clock A. M. on the ground; found it somewhat broken and irregular, but open and well drained. The hospitals, however, are situated on the skirt of a wood, for the sake of shade, where the ventilation cannot be good, and where, at this season, hospitals should not be placed. They are comfortable buildings, of rough boards, three in number. One of the regiments has its hospital a mile off in the town. The sick appeared to be well taken care of.

The water in this camp was all drawn from springs a mile and a half off; it was not good, but far from being very bad. There had been an increase of sickness, particularly diarrhœa, since they left Freeport, in the upper part of the State, where they had been encamped several

weeks. They had been on the present ground less than a fortnight. The men, however, were more contented as they got fairly away from home, and felt themselves really in for the campaign. They were all enlisted for the war. It is evident that change of water, and especially *bad* water, is the most immediate and serious cause of illness in all western camps at this time. Pains enough are not taken to place the camps with reference to the vicinity of good water. The best water in Illinois was said to be found at a ridge running down from four miles below Alton, near the Junction, where broad and excellent camping and parade grounds existed. The colonels had *prospected* this place, and approved it; but were, nevertheless—so I heard from a reputable source—ordered to remain where they were, and where they had actually suffered at first for want of *enough* water, because the contractors found the immediate neighborhood of Alton a more profitable place to meet their engagements in. The vicinity of considerable towns is always bad for camping grounds, as the opportunities of intoxication are increased.

The brigade encamped at Alton (camp Pope) consisted of the 15th regiment, Illinois volunteers, Col. T. J. Turner in command, as the oldest colonel of the whole brigade for the time, although General (late Captain) Pope of the U. S. A. was announced as having been ordered there to take command of the force. This 15th regiment was a *crack* regiment, composed of highly respectable citizens from Freeport, Stephenson county, and with an excellent colonel, and a high *morale* and discipline. The colonel would allow no liquor sold in camp or within a mile and a half of the camp. He would not permit his soldiers to go beyond the lines—making the 4th of July the only exception, when the men were put on their honor in respect of drinking; sixty in one company had just joined the “Good Templars,” and many in other companies. This seems a favorite temperance organization, which many men throughout the western ranks were joining. The liquor drunk by those who are disposed to indulge in this way is a wretched corn whiskey, new and adulterated, and very productive of irritation of the intestinal canal. Good water is the best preventive of the use of bad liquor.

The men had received from the State half a month's pay. They bought vegetables with their own money.

The inspection in this and all the regiments had been very deficient in thoroughness. I called out of the ranks several boys, and never once was mistaken, on questioning, in finding those I deemed under age, to be so. It was confessed that they had used all kinds of stratagems to pass muster—some filling up their boots to eke out an unacceptable height. Eight had been discharged for incompetency. The men seemed to have an unbounded confidence in their colonel, which appeared to be

well founded. Col. Turner said the great difficulty was in getting the men to obey officers no better than themselves, and often not as good. The officers might *pursuade*, but did not know how to *command* men they associated with at home as equals. And this is the chief misfortune about the volunteers, and really raises the question whether the men of one district would not be better offered from another. The colonel complained that it was very difficult to have the camp police, in respect of the use of sinks, carried out, and this was evident to several senses. The excellent chaplain, Rev. Mr. Halteman, wanted sanitary books to circulate. There were only six men in each tent here.

The 17th Illinois regiment encamped here two weeks ago Tuesday last; they had been at Peoria since May 12. There were 28 in hospital—11 in camp, and 17 in town. Measles and diarrhœa had been their complaints. The general condition of this regiment was much like the last. Surgeon absent.

20th Illinois regiment—C. C. Marsh, colonel—at Joliet from 11th May till 19th June; since that at Alton. Averaged 8 or 9 at Joliet in hospital; 2 cases of diphtheria, some intermittent fever; were now prescribing for diarrhœa 10 cases every day. Complained of the water as bad, unless iced. There was, however, some ice served out by the commissary in this brigade. Dr. Goodbrake, surgeon, absent.

Hecker's Yagers; lacked one company; a very fine body of men; came from Chicago a fortnight ago; average per week, 12 sick; one man shot; they had colds, fever, rheumatism, and diarrhœa; complained of the water. Surgeon, Dr. Wagner; and assistant surgeon, Dr. Starek. Eighteen in hospital on the 4th July; one man (doubtful) reported as having had the cholera; three men in the regiment wanting the little finger.

Not a medical man in this whole second brigade, Illinois troops, had yet received his commission. The medical men generally appeared earnest, kind, competent men, and mainly embarrassed by ignorance how to get what they required in hospital stores, which was very much due to uncertainty on the part of their colonels, in whose department they were. I urged everywhere resort to the nearest medical purveyor, and begged the medical purveyors to stretch their rules so as to delay only as little as possible the supply of stores, even when irregularly asked for. It is evident that the medical directors are in general either too few, too old, or too inactive; that they do not go about and inquire into the wants of the surgeons and hospitals, and facilitate their accommodation with stores. The regiments at Caseyville, Cairo, Alton, had been visited by Dr. Taggart, who referred them to Dr. ———, who was with General McClellan. But all this roundabout inquiry compelled



these urgent hospital wants to be referred to Springfield—a distant place—where orders were made out to be filled at Cincinnati, while all the time a medical director and purveyor both existed at St. Louis, with abundant stores, whence, at a distance of nine mile from Caseyville, twenty from Alton, and six hours or so from Cairo, all these wants could be in 24 hours fully met. I endeavored to bring this about; but the medical director at St. Louis is old and inactive, and past real usefulness; while Dr. Bailey, medical purveyor, no longer young, lives at Jefferson Barracks, where he is surgeon, and does the duties of this St. Louis post as extra service, which is all wrong. Young, active, and efficient men are solely wanted in this important department. The lack of a regular inspector, U. S. A., flying through the camps, communicating information, and spurring on and facilitating official service, is most obvious.

There is no general hospital yet established at this point. I urged it as indispensable. Dr. Kellogg is temporary brigade surgeon.

The chaplain at Caseyville, Col. Wyman's regiment, had regular Sunday service 30 minutes long, a prayer meeting regularly Thursday evening, and prayer meetings in the soldiers' tents. The regiment turned out regularly at 6½ o'clock every morning to prayers—in strange contrast with the chaplain's experience at Jefferson Barracks, where the service not being compulsory, there was a most meagre attendance, and little other duty. The volunteer chaplains were generally very active, devoted, and ready to seize every opportunity of strengthening the officers, and helping the virtue of the men. Col. Turner's chaplain, and, indeed, all at Camp Pope, seemed of this character.

The whole brigade celebrated the fourth of July by dress parade, and after being formed into hollow square, of which the town's people formed one side, they were entertained and instructed, first with the reading of the Declaration of Independence, then with addresses of twenty minutes in length from four officers, one from each of the four regiments.

The celebrated patriot Hecker, colonel of a Yager regiment, an eloquent man of 60, addressed the brigade in stirring German. He was followed by two captains. The President of the Sanitary Commission was then, without any warning, introduced by the colonel to the brigade in terms that brought all the regiments to their feet, while a most telling shout evidenced the welcome the west gave the humble representative from the east, and the envoy of the Sanitary Commission. He made a semi-patriotic and semi-official address of 20 minutes, using the first half as an entering wedge for the more important and less palatable portion, which was an earnest appeal to the officers and the medical men, in behalf of the most immediate and rigid enforcement of sanitary regulations, detailing the most important and the most neglected;



and then to the men themselves, upon the nature of their perils from disease, and the importance of punctilious co-operation with their officers in all particulars touching cleanliness, ventilation, careful diet, and camp police in general. The address was warmly received, and the opportunity considered a very valuable one, as some 4,000 men were reached by it, and under pleasant and impressive circumstances. Col. Turner concluded with a spirited address, enforcing these instructions, and possessing a commanding tone of moral earnestness, which was equally creditable to himself and his command. At the close, the oath of allegiance being called for by the men and the citizens generally, the whole assembly rose, and lifting every right hand, Colonel Turner administered the *oath* to the whole company, who responded with a solemn and universal Amen, the genuineness and significance of which would have sent a shuddering sense of doom into all rebellious hearts, as it did a glowing confidence and strength into all loyal ones. The company was then dismissed with music, after the benediction by the chaplain.

The general appearance of the men, both as to clothes, equipments, *personnel* of officers, drill, and moral tone, was very excellent. They failed in nothing but experience of camp life. Their cooking was improving, though still needing system. It was quite regular as to hours. They had had a better ration when nearer home, but had none now.

In company with eight unexpected guests, we joined the officers' mess, and had a dinner, which, though plain and without a drop of wine, was abundant, well served, and very welcome. The whole appearance of the officers' mess, their unaffected heartiness, simplicity, earnestness, and good sense, left a most grateful impression on the mind of your president and two clerical friends of intelligence who accompanied him. Several ladies were sharers of the mess dinner, and with us visited the hospitals with lively interest. The surgeons and colonels all wanted female nurses, and asked anxiously for information and direction how to obtain them. They will be indispensable among the volunteers, both in the general and regimental hospitals, particularly if the camps are stationary, as they are very likely to be through the summer. All the regiments should be removed as often as once a month, if only to break up monotony. They want more reading in the west, as they do not get the papers to any such extent as in the east.

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JULY 2, 1861.

ST. LOUIS.

Visited the arsenal. There are 14,644 enlisted men, including officers, in Missouri; 11,000 are armed with rifled muskets; 3,000 with smooth bore.

There are 2,500 in barracks in St. Louis; 2,500 in camps and temporary quarters with General Lyon; 900 at Jefferson barracks; 3,500 at Springfield, and on the way to it. General Lyon has also an Iowa regiment with him.

On the 1st June, out of 4,000, 141 were reported sick.

On the 2d June, out of 4,000, 145 were reported sick.

#### MARINE HOSPITAL AT ST. LOUIS.

Dr. Hammer, surgeon, gone as colonel to the war. Dr. Porter is appointed; not yet ordered on duty; has Dr. Finch and Dr. De Corsey as assistants—there time is up.

Hospital built at an expense of about \$100,000, ten years ago. Has an average of about 50 in it; rises to 90 in summer, sinks to 30 when the river is in boating condition, and is manned by a non-resident surgeon, whose duty it is to visit every day, and by two students, one acting as house doctor and the other as apothecary; a steward with a salary of \$600, and a matron (steward's wife) at \$150; five women servants each, \$12 per month; others, \$10 per month; a nurse, (a man,) \$25 per month; house doctor, \$20; apothecary, \$10. Average, about \$1,200 per month, or \$14,000 per year. Steward buys all provisions; surgeon all medicines. Building and all affairs under the control of collector, A. J. Howard, Esq.

Hospital has 6 wards—18 beds in three of them; 20 in 3 others—in all 114; might accommodate 150, when crowded. Has been used by soldiers a good deal, who are barracked temporarily in sheds in the hospital yard. The building is sadly out of repair. Cupola leaks; flag-staff rotten; glass broken; stairs dirty. All the water-works are out of order; the pipes burst every winter two or three times. The water closets and bath-rooms past use from neglect. The ceiling broken everywhere, and the glass very badly set. The water forced up by a steam-engine in the most expensive way; a fire every morning and evening; all the water drawn a mile and a half; and the roof discharges into the cistern where the water is stored sooty deposits with every rain. Great need of a shoe to these pipes of a movable character. Great need of railing about the doors; three of them dangerous; drains in the yard fallen in; in one place about one half dug up, in which much filth had accumulated.

The beds all dirty and disgusting; men sleeping in their clothes; no sheets or bed clothes, except a comforter to each man; blankets, 24 in number; no sheets; no change for the men; all the men use vessels in the rooms for all necessary uses, which are carried out. The house bad smelling; men disgusting.

The steward authorized to buy plenty of provisions, but no clothing; inspected twice a year, and complaints made, but no attention paid to the complaints; the walls hard finish, wont take white-wash; require to be painted and washed. Joseph McIlvaine, superintendent since April 20; Mr. Brown, nurse for two years past. Furniture all broken.

Superintendent's apartments very nice; situation beautiful; not very healthful, however; medical attendance poor and irregular.

The lack of any power, on the part of the colonels, to dismiss and discharge summarily men proving wholly unfitted for service, under the trial of sickness, or the development of constitutional weakness, is a source of embarrassment to the regiment, and needless suffering to the men.

Delay in forwarding the commissions of medical men, regularly passed in late examinations, is another source of trouble, as they cannot legally make requisitions until they receive their commissions. In consequence, the hospitals suffer. The medical purveyors should receive orders to respond at once to requisitions, however irregular, if made by indorsement of the colonels. There should be a generous allowance for the ignorance of forms among the new officers in all departments, or great suffering will ensue. Both commissaries, quartermasters, colonels, and surgeons need the benefit of this charity. The summoning away of surgeons to a re-examination has proved very unfavorable to the ease of the sick, the hospital steward being often the only official on the ground, and he very incompetent to deal with any serious illness.

The chaplains are usually a very earnest and active set of men among the volunteers—far more so, I should judge, than among the regulars. They complain, however, not of want of respect or inattention among the men, but rather of some great vagueness and want of precise directions in regard to their duties. Their pay is that of a cavalry captain. It is doubtful, however, whether they had not better be left to their individual discretion.

There was no evidence of any decaying interest in the war, or of any disposition to withdraw. The country west is covered with corn. The wheat harvest is already quite generally gathered in, in abundance. Corn in which the horses' heads were just visible as they drew the cultivator through the furrows was common, although a great deal not a foot high was also to be seen. The harvest of corn is considered safe, if the corn is well rooted by July 1st.

Intemperance did not seem at all common in the ranks, although some regiments were charged with it. It seems almost wholly dependent on the character of the officers.

We saw no ambulances in any western camp, and no stretchers.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 27.

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## REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE U. S. TROOPS IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

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BY J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,

*Associate Secretary Sanitary Commission.*

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Of the sanitary condition of the Federal forces in the Valley of the Mississippi, and the operations of the Sanitary Commission in that district during the month of August, I beg leave to submit the following report :

It gives me pleasure to state that the general sanitary condition of the troops is good ; at least very encouraging, considering their universal want of experience in camp life, and the hurried manner in which they have been congregated from widely separated sections of the country, and thrown into conditions of life as regards climate, water, food, occupations and exposures, very different from that to which they had been accustomed. It is necessary to say, however, to this general rule there are some marked and instructive exceptions, to which I shall have occasion to allude hereafter.

The causes of this exemption from diseases so general among our troops, are doubtless somewhat complex ; but probably the most potent has been the marked healthfulness of the season. The weather has been cool and dry, and no epidemic has prevailed. Malarious fevers—



the scourges of the Southwest—have been slow to develop themselves; and although the season when they are usually most rife has not yet been reached, I think we may congratulate ourselves that our anticipations of the loss and suffering of our troops from this cause, are not likely to be realized.

Another and scarcely less efficient cause of the comparative healthfulness of most of the Western camps, may, I think, be truthfully said to be the very general appreciation of the value of sanitary regulations, and the promptness and energy with which both military and medical officers have accepted and enforced such wholesome rules for the preservation of the health of the men, as have been suggested by the officers or agents of the Sanitary Commission. And in this connection I must say that too much importance cannot be attached to the thorough inspection of the Western camps early in the season by our worthy President. The hints, rules, precepts and injunctions he then disseminated at Camp Dennison, Cairo, St. Louis, Alton, Caseyville, &c., have proved good seed on good ground, and have brought forth abundant fruit.

No epidemic is now prevailing among the Western troops—most of the cases of disease being such as are incident to camp life everywhere. With better accommodations for the sick, larger experience on the part of officers and men, and a gratifying general observance of sanitary rules, these cases are becoming far less numerous and severe than earlier in the campaign. To such an extent is this true, that I think we have good grounds to hope, and even expect, that with energetic and judicious efforts toward that end, the fearful mortality of camp life in other wars may be in ours, not perhaps wholly escaped, but greatly reduced.

By the action of the Commission, our western field of labor has been divided into three districts, viz.:

1st. The Western Mississippi, including Missouri and Iowa. 2d. The Eastern Mississippi, comprising Illinois, including Cairo and its vicinity, and Indiana. 3d. The Department of the Ohio, Western Virginia and Ohio.

The inspection of the camps in these districts has been entrusted respectively to Dr. W. P. Bucl, whose headquarters are at St. Louis; Dr. P. Aigner, stationed at Cairo, and Dr. C. D. Griswold, in Western Virginia, with a depot at Wheeling.

In accordance with the instructions of the Commission, these gentlemen have made frequent reports to me of the condition of the camps

under their charge, and have notified me of the more urgent wants of the troops as they came to their knowledge. Such hospital stores as could not be obtained in time through other channels, I have been able to supply upon their requisitions.

From Dr. Buel I have no *detailed* report on the condition of the troops in Missouri, he himself having been sick and very much occupied. I gather from his letters, however, that the health of the Federal forces in that State is generally quite good, though there is a want of hospital and medical stores, of ambulances, &c., for the current necessities of the army of occupation, and a much greater want of preparation for an epidemic of disease, or a general engagement.

The battle in which General Lyon was killed, found the medical department very imperfectly supplied with the hospital stores and accommodations required for the wounded. Of these a large number were brought to St. Louis, and, as I have before stated, the hospital stores required in their treatment were supplied from Ohio and New York.

Dr. Buel expresses much concern at the entire want of ambulances in Missouri, but has submitted the matter to the consideration of General Fremont, who will perhaps see that this radical deficiency is supplied.

From Cairo I have frequent reports through Dr. Aigner. Of these, the first is so full and interesting that I take the liberty of transcribing a considerable portion of it.

1. "The forces stationed at Cairo and Bird's Point are in a state of transition, and almost constant change of position. The 'three-months' men' went home just before my arrival, the 'cadres' of their regiments—consisting of officers and soldiers who re-enlisted for three years on the spot—remaining here to receive and drill the new recruits as they come in. Two of the most complete regiments have left permanently, as it seems, and gone up the river by order of Gen. Fremont. Of the remaining ones some are ordered across the river or back again, or to an advanced post, or within the entrenchments, almost every other day to fulfil some military necessity, or execute some strategical plan. You will see at once how unfavorable such a state of things is for the collection of sanitary statistics, or the carrying out of the suggestions of medical officers and the Sanitary Commission.

2. "The medical staff of the two brigades stationed at this post is composed of good men, with very few exceptions. The medical director, Dr. Simmons, U. S. A. S., sent here by the Surgeon General to

superintend the general and regimental hospitals, is a gentleman of large experience, fully alive to the importance of military hygiene, and imbued with the true spirit of reformation and improvement. Through his intervention the regimental surgeons and hospitals are supplied with everything they want in the shape of instruments, medicines, articles of hospital furniture, &c., with the exceptions mentioned further on.

3. "All the regiments, excepting the 18th Illinois Volunteers, Col. Lawlor, have, up to this time, been very fortunate in regard to their sanitary condition. Their loss in deaths has been very small, and a large proportion of these was caused by accidents. The 18th regiment, on the contrary, furnishes a sad illustration of the consequences of a neglect of hygienic measures. Their camp is the filthiest I have yet seen; its police entirely neglected, and the commanding officer pays, evidently, no attention to the suggestions of the medical director and the regimental surgeons, of whom he had a succession of five within as many weeks; it is, therefore, not to be wondered at, that the number of his men on the sick list amounts to-day to 209, in a force of 954.

4. "The hospitals, general as well as regimental, are mostly located in frame houses, not well adapted to such a purpose, or in tents within the entrenchments at Bird's Point, from 'military necessity;' but they are tolerably well furnished, well kept, and well supplied, if we except mattresses, blankets, and such articles of food as have to be got by means of a hospital fund, or special requisition on the commissary. Very few volunteer regiments know how to get up a hospital fund, and even if they do they cannot convert their undrawn rations into such supplies as chickens, eggs, oranges, &c., without money in the hands of the commissary, and there is no money here in the hands of any officer.

5. "Several ladies' associations of Chicago, Springfield, and Quincy have sent on supplies of wines, jellies, and other luxuries, to be distributed to the sick in the different hospitals. Unfortunately, patients in hospitals where lady nurses are not admitted by the surgeons, are excluded from the benefits of these associations.

6. "In most of the hospitals, patients have no mattresses or bed blankets. Requisitions for these articles have been made, and a sufficient supply is daily expected from St. Louis. Bed writing tables and slippers are a great desideratum, and, as they will not be furnished by Government, the Commission is requested to send some here, if able to do so.

7. "There is not a single regiment here which is in possession of an



ambulance, and but very few are provided with field stretchers. The Medical Director tells me, however, that requisitions have been made for them, and that a sufficient number will arrive within a few days.

8. "The men of all the regiments are well fed on fresh meat and bakers' bread, the rations being of amply sufficient quantity and good quality. Their clothing is, on the contrary, very poor, uniforms not being furnished at all, blankets, stockings, underclothes, and shoes not in sufficient quantity and of very poor quality. The appearance of the men is, therefore, almost shocking to a military eye, and the approaching cool season will find them ill prepared if the requisitions for these articles are not soon filled.

9. "The prevailing diseases are: intermittent and remitting fevers, bowel complaints, colds, rheumatism, and typhoid fever. The number of the first might be reduced by the use of quinine as a prophylactic. I have advocated this practice, which hitherto has been entirely neglected, in my conversations with the regimental surgeons, and hope to see it soon adopted by the great majority of them. Bowel complaints are on the decrease among the acclimated portion of the troops, and might be still further reduced by the general adoption of the habit of wearing flannel body bandages or stomach belts, of which there is a large number in the hands of Mrs. Yates, the deputy of Miss Dix. The surgeons have, up to this time, paid too little attention to the importance of this precaution. In newly-arrived men, nothing seems to be able to prevent the omnivorous diarrhœa of Cairo, which, fortunately, is not very difficult to control. The sale of unwholesome fruit is now prohibited in nearly all the camps, but soldiers on leave of absence will help themselves to unripe peaches, green apples, &c."

At the request of the Commission, I employed an inspector (Dr. C. D. Griswold) to visit the camps and hospitals in Western Virginia.

The report which he has made of his tour of inspection is quite full, and such as probably gives a fair representation of the health of the troops, the sanitary condition of the camps, the state of the hospitals as regards cleanliness, and the quality and quantity of hospital and medical stores on hand.

From this report it is evident that prompt action is demanded on the part of the General and Ohio State Governments, to correct the abuses and supply the deficiencies which are seen to exist.

There is also a pressing call for such aid as the Sanitary Commission can afford; and I would respectfully suggest that an inspector be kept on duty in this district, and that a permanent depot of supplies be established at Wheeling, Virginia.



The necessity for these measures will, I think, be seen from the following extracts from the introduction to the report of Dr. Griswold:

“In submitting the accompanying Reports of Camps and Hospitals, which I have visited by your instructions, it seems necessary to observe—

“1st. I have everywhere been treated with the kindest consideration, and the fullest respect and appreciation of the labors of the Sanitary Commission, under which I have acted, have been expressed by Brig. Gen. Rosecrans and Col. Hewes, of Clarksburgh; by Brig. Gen. Kelly, of Grafton, and by the surgeons of the various posts. General Rosecrans had the kindness to note in my memorandum book the stations in the Department of the Ohio, which he desired to have under the surveillance of an agent of the Commission; and Gen. Kelly expressed a desire that such agent should make Grafton his headquarters.

“2d. The deficiencies so fully noted in the accompanying reports are not, that I could learn, the result of indifference on the part of the officers in command respecting the health and comfort of their men, but rather from the hasty manner in which so large a force has been called into the field, and the inexperience so general among those who have been called to act regarding the necessities of camp life and hospital organization.

“3d. The surgical instruments and medicines supplied by the Purveyor at Cincinnati, are not of uniform good quality, and not well selected,—some articles in over abundance, and often deficiencies in the most common necessities.

“Peruvian bark (red) is very essential to restore the digestive powers of the convalescent, yet it is nowhere furnished. Labaroque’s Solution, I found, had been furnished in small quantity at one station, but nowhere did I find chloride of lime, or even quick-lime, which should be kept by every Quartermaster. Necessary articles for cleanliness and comfort—such as bed chambers with covers, spout cups, spittoons, and even candlesticks—are required at every station or hospital I visited. Mops and brushes for wet and dry scrubbing with sand, are unknown. The expectorated matter upon the floors at the hospital at Clarksburgh, from patients with bronchial affections, rendered my stay in the wards intolerable.

“4th. No means did I find anywhere for the bathing, or even general washing of patients in or on entering the hospital.

“5th. Application is frequently made by young women who desire to be employed in the hospitals as nurses, and Gen. Kelly desired that this might be accomplished. The moral effect upon the sick would be

most salutary, and discipline could be much better enforced, for no human heart could knowingly disregard the order and decorum necessary for the occupancy of the female who seeks by her own hands to make comfortable the sick.

“6th. Suspending coal oil lamps with ground shades should be furnished every hospital to light the wards and halls. Safety and economy demand this provision.

“7th. The period of my visit to Western Virginia was very unfavorable for the inspection of camps, inasmuch as the army was moving forward, and therefore constantly changing position. I found much difficulty in obtaining statistical information, and would urge the adoption of more system and accuracy in the hospital records.”

In regard to the condition of the camps in the interior of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, of which no report has been given by our inspectors, I am able to state that very few troops at present occupy their camps. Regiments are recruiting at a great number of points, but as fast as organized and equipped, they are hurried off to join the forces of General Fremont and General Rosecrans. While in this nascent state, little has been possible in the way of the improvement of their sanitary condition. I am happy to be able to state that the law passed at the last session of Congress, providing for the organization of boards for the examination of Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons in all the States, has been carried into effect in all the Western States; and the surgeons now receiving commissions are generally men of reputable character and good professional ability.

To their surgeons a large number of the documents of the Commission have been sent; and it is hoped they will early take a decided stand in the enforcement of sanitary rules in the camps and among the troops under their care.

In addition to the inspection of camps, much has been done in the West during the past month in supplying the want, most severely felt in Missouri and Western Virginia, of hospital stores, lint, bandages, sheets, shirts, drawers, slippers, &c., &c., and articles of diet for the soldiers, not included in the rations supplied to them, such as pickles, dried fruit and vegetables, and arrowroot, cornstarch, jellies and canned fruits for the sick.

In Missouri the pressing want of hospital stores, felt immediately subsequent to the engagement near Springfield, was fully supplied by the contributions of the Woman's Central Association of Relief, of New York, and the Ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society, of Cleveland. In

Western Virginia, the Government machinery for the supply of hospital and medical stores has but recently been put in motion ; and the hospitals at Oakland, Clarksburgh, and Grafton, as well as those of the regiments stationed farther South and east, at Beverly, Summerville, &c., have been and still are greatly in want of many of the articles most essential to the health and comfort of the sick. These wants have, however, been in part supplied by the liberal contributions of the ladies of Northern Ohio ; and it is probable that all necessary extraneous aid will be furnished from the same source.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. NEWBERRY.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 28.

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## ADVICE AS TO CAMPING,

BY THE

BRITISH GOVERNMENT SANITARY COMMISSION.

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NOTE.—“In consequence of the frightful mortality by disease, the British Government sent out a Sanitary Commission to the Crimea. The soldiers had been dying like rotten sheep. Late in 1854 they died at the rate of 33 per cent. a year. The rate afterwards increased so fearfully, and rose so high, that if it had continued, and if recruits had not been continually poured in to fill the dead men's places, the whole army would have perished in less than a year.

“In consequence of active, wise, and resolute efforts, the number of deaths immediately began to lessen, and continued to lessen until, in the first quarter of 1856, the rate of mortality was as low as it is usually among men of the army ages in the most healthy rural districts of England.

“Let us now look at the condition of the recruits in our encampments. They are said to be in good health. Of course they are, for they are fresh from their various wholesome callings. As time is necessary to form an army, so it is to breed an epidemic; and the processes for both are in active operation.”—[From a letter on sanitary condition of the troops about Boston, by S. G. Howe, M. D.]

The practical conclusions derived from the investigations of the British Sanitary Commission were published in an official report, from which the following advice, respecting the location, arrangement, and police of camps is taken, and respectfully urged upon the attention of the surgeons and officers of the Army of the United States.

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## PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS RESPECTING CAMPS.

### I.

That by far the greater part of the disease and mortality existing in the camp, when the Commission arrived in the Crimea, was due to zymotic maladies, such as cholera, fever, diarrhœa, and dysentery.

That besides the effects of topographical and climatic peculiarities connected with the occupation, and making allowance for the predisposing influence of other conditions,



to which the troops had been exposed, the prevalence of zymotic maladies was obviously connected with local favoring causes essentially the same in kind as those observed in civil life, especially in rural districts, namely:

Damp.

Impure air.

(Although in a minor degree) impure water.

## II.

Attacks of zymotic disease were observed to be connected with the three following sources of dampness:

A wet subsoil; a retentive surface soil; confined locality.

1. Of these three conditions, *a wet subsoil* occasioned the largest proportional amount of sickness.

The experience of the 79th Regiment, and that of the 31st and Royal Artillery, who were successively camped on the same ground, below Marine Heights, proves that one of the worst sites for a camp is that in which a thin bed of porous material rests upon an impervious bed beneath, which retains the water, and keeps the subsoil charged with it, while the surface may afford little or no indication of the fact.

Dangerous sites of this kind were often marked by a greener or more vigorous vegetation than that of the surrounding district, or by water-springs coming to the surface, or by evening fogs settling over them sooner than over the adjacent country.

Before selecting positions for camps in unknown ground, it would be very advisable to dig trial holes a few feet deep, to ascertain what is the condition of the subsoil drainage, and not to risk the health of the men in camping on ground in which these trial holes show the presence of water near the surface.

Should it be necessary, for military reasons, to hold a position on a wet subsoil, the whole should, if practicable, be thoroughly drained by deep trenches, and if there be a hillside or watershed above the ground, the surface water from it should be turned aside from the site by deep, catch-water drains, as was done with the camp of the Highland Division at Kamara.

If the position be such that deep trenching and draining cannot be carried out, it is in the highest degree probable

that if held for any length of time, it will be at a considerable sacrifice of force.

2. *The retentive character of clay surface soils*, and the difficulty of draining such soils, render it advisable to avoid them as camping-grounds, when it is possible to do so.

Wet clay soils keep the air near the ground damp and cold, and they affect the atmosphere of tents and huts in a similar manner. There was sufficient proof of their injurious effects on the health of troops in the Crimea.

Where such soils must be occupied, for military reasons, the defects in the natural drainage should be remedied, as far as practicable, by trenching the ground, and by trenching the site of every hut and tent separately, connecting the hut and tent drains with the larger trenches. In this way, not only are the sites and the vicinity of the huts and tents kept comparatively dry, but the surface water is more readily removed, the exhalations from the damp soil diminished, and the air purified. The experience of the army in the Crimea showed the very beneficial effects of this surface drainage and trenching on the health of the troops.

3. *Dampness of the air, arising from the nature of the locality*, proceeds from the topographical peculiarities of the ground preventing a free circulation of the air, and the atmosphere becoming stagnant, and charged with moisture and emanations from the ground. The valley of Karani, above Kadikoi, afforded an illustration of this, in certain states of the weather.

It was observed in other parts of the seat of the war in the East, that damp white mists, settling in valleys or hollows occupied by troops, had been the precursors of epidemic diseases, especially of cholera. All valleys are at times exposed to similar occurrences, especially such as contain stagnant lakes. An unhealthy and stagnant state of the air is sometimes increased by brushwood or trees.

There is often no escape from epidemic sickness occurring among troops from the occupation of such positions; they should, therefore, be avoided or abandoned.

### III.

The evils resulting from these local causes of dampness were not unfrequently aggravated by the manner of pitching

tents and erecting huts. Want of due preparation of the ground, and defective drainage of the site, often led to a damp state of the air within huts and tents, and induced a tendency to fevers.\*

Deep trenching round the tent site, as already mentioned, is the best remedy; and in the case of huts, the site should be isolated from the surrounding ground, and the area to be occupied by the hut drained by a trench dug round it at least a foot below the level of the floor.

If it be not practicable to drain the subsoil, and if the position must be held, adequate provision should be made, with any materials at hand, for raising the beds of the men above the ground.

Huts should never be banked up with earth against the wood. The experience in the Crimea has shown that it is a dangerous practice, for it used to be a common cause of fevers.† An interior lining, even of old newspaper, affords a much better, and at the same time a perfectly safe protection from drafts.

The flooring of huts should be occasionally raised, the surface of the ground below cleansed, and quick lime and charcoal strewed over it.

For hospital huts, an interior lining of boards, or building a rough rubble stone wall outside, as was done in many of the regimental hospitals, affords the requisite protection from weather and from sun heat.

#### IV.

The camp before Sebastopol was, generally, remarkably

\*Tents in the camps of our volunteers are at present (September, 1861,) universally crowded too closely together. No tent should ever be placed within two full paces of another. Camp streets should never be less than five paces wide. (See U. S. Army Regulations, par. 506.) These being minimum distances, should be largely increased wherever practicable.—F. L. O.

† The practice adopted in some of our regiments of excavating the ground to be covered by the tents, in order to get warmer quarters at the beginning of the cold season, is equally injurious, and ought to be strictly prohibited. A sufficient supply of blankets for the night, and great camp-fires, which purify the atmosphere, dry the ground, and warm the men, by day, keeping them at the same time out of their crowded and ill-ventilated shelters, are, by far, better means for making them feel comfortable than sinking the tent floor.—G. A.



clean when first visited; but there were in certain situations sources of atmospheric impurity, from putrescent organic effluvia, likely to influence injuriously the health of the troops. The chief of these were:

Picketing-grounds, and manure heaps.

One or two slaughtering-places, and latterly the large cattle depot and slaughtering-place at Kadikoi.

The graveyards and putrid marsh near Balaklava.

Latrines kept too long open, and exposing too large a surface.

When an army can shift its ground at will, danger to health from similar evils can always be avoided by doing so.

When, on the other hand, an army is tied to its position for a length of time, the camp becomes a town, and is subject to all the sanitary defects of towns, as these existed before the introduction of the first great step that was taken for improving the public health; namely, the introduction of paving.

Picketing of horses saturates the ground they occupy with organic matter. In like manner, accumulations of manure, if allowed to remain, saturate the ground they cover. Filth of any kind is washed into the ground by the rains, or trodden into it by the steps of men and animals, and must necessarily give off impure emanations under the joint action of sun heat and moisture.

To avoid the injurious consequences likely to arise from these circumstances, it is indispensably necessary to observe the most scrupulous cleanliness over the whole surface and vicinity of a camp. All refuse should be at once swept up, and removed to a distance. None should ever be allowed to accumulate within, or in the immediate vicinity of a camp.

Bones and refuse of food can be most easily disposed of by burial.

Stable litter and all inflammable refuse should be carefully burned. The usual method of forming heaps of litter, and firing it, is imperfect. Before being fired, it should always be opened up, to admit the air to dry it, and to expedite the combustion. Manure heaps burn with difficulty if left on the ground for any length of time before they are fired.



Carcasses of animals and offal should be buried to a sufficient depth below the surface. Three feet is enough under ordinary circumstances. Refuse charcoal dust thrown over tainted ground will assist in deodorizing it, or, if that be not attainable, the burning of stable litter on the spot will furnish sufficient charcoal for the purpose.

Latrines should be made narrow and deep; a quantity of earth should be thrown into them each day, until they are filled within two feet of the surface, after which the latrine should be filled up, and another dug.

When an army requires to occupy the same surface of ground for years, it would be unsafe to bury the refuse in the ground, because eventually the soil would become saturated with organic matter, and dangerous to health.

In such a case, the construction of furnaces to consume every organic product of the camp is by far the best and safest proceeding. Speedy collection, removal, and destruction by fire of all such refuse matters, obviates any risk of danger from them.

#### V.

*Atmospheric impurities, arising from overcrowding and defective ventilation of tents and huts, were a frequent predisposing cause of zymotic disease.*

Were it practicable in warfare to diminish materially the number of men sleeping in tents, it would be advisable to do so. But considering the limited transport at the command of an army in the field, the injurious consequences of overcrowding may, to a considerable extent, be obviated by a free ventilation of huts, and by improving the construction of tents and marquees, by introducing effectual means of ventilation round the top of the poles.

In the case of huts, ridge ventilation is the most efficient.

Lime-washing huts inside, especially hospital huts, purifies the air; lime-washing of huts outside protects them, to a certain extent, from the intense sun's rays, and keeps them cooler within.

The usual practice of striking tents and shifting ground is an excellent means of avoiding the effects of saturation of the earth by emanations proceeding from the breath and bodies of the men.\*

## VI.

The condition in which the water was drawn for use in the camp, was likely, especially during the prevalence of cholera, to aggravate the severity of the disease, although not to a great degree.

It is always desirable that water for drinking and cooking purposes should be, as nearly as possible, destitute of color, taste, or smell. Anything that interferes with these three natural tests is more or less injurious to health; but marsh water, however apparently pure, is not wholesome.

All engineering works for supplying camps with water should comprehend:

The selection of the purest obtainable source.

The delivering the water for use as pure as it is at its source.

If it be necessary to pound the water, the tanks should be covered.

Water should, if practicable at all, never be drawn by dipping, if it be rendered muddy in the act of being so drawn.

If a source of water of sufficient purity be not obtainable, the water should be filtered. A filter may be made with sorted gravel, clean sand, and charcoal.

Every trough for supplying horses should have a separate inlet and overflow.

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\*The advice given by the Commissioners in regard to the site, construction, and ventilation of huts, cannot be too strongly insisted upon, as these structures are more permanent and fixed quarters than tents. Thousands of our soldiers will live in them during the coming winter. The desire to keep themselves warm, and ignorance of the vital necessity of an abundance of pure air, will make them unmindful of ventilation; and the sickness and mortality among our troops, from fevers, pulmonary complaints, &c., will certainly be fearful, if the lessons of the Crimean and other wars, in this respect, are not heeded by our commanders. No hut-barracks ought to be constructed and used as winter quarters, unless the site selected for them, their internal arrangement, and especially the means proposed for their ventilation, have received the approval of a Board of Advice, consisting of the best engineers and medical officers attached to the force.—G. A.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.

### I.

That as scurvy, and the forms of disease connected with it, almost disappeared from the army under the influence of improved diet, clothing, &c., so, in like manner, zymotic diseases, the destructive effects of which mainly depend on breathing a humid, tainted atmosphere, declined on the carrying out of suitable sanitary works and measures.

### II.

That men just arrived in a new country are especially liable to suffer from prevailing zymotic maladies. That any given number of reinforcements will not compensate to the service for the loss of the same number of the original force from these diseases, and hence the necessity for effective sanitary precautions is doubly imperative, whether as regards the abatement of local favoring conditions, or the discovery and immediate treatment of the premonitory stages.

### III.

As the result of their whole experience, the Commissioners beg to express their opinion, that, inasmuch as the neglect of military *hygiene*, whether as regards the soldier personally, or the sanitary condition of camps, barracks, and hospitals, has hitherto, in all countries, climates, and seasons, been the cause of the largest amount of loss in armies, the whole subject, closely connected as it is with the physical efficiency of Her Majesty's forces, demands in future a practical development commensurate with its importance to the public service.

We have the honor to be, my Lord, your Lordship's  
humble and obedient servants,

JOHN SUTHERLAND.  
ROBERT RAWLINSON.  
GAVIN MILROY.

The Right Hon.

LORD PANMURE, G. C. B., &c.,

*Minister at War.*

DECEMBER 1, 1856.

No. 29.

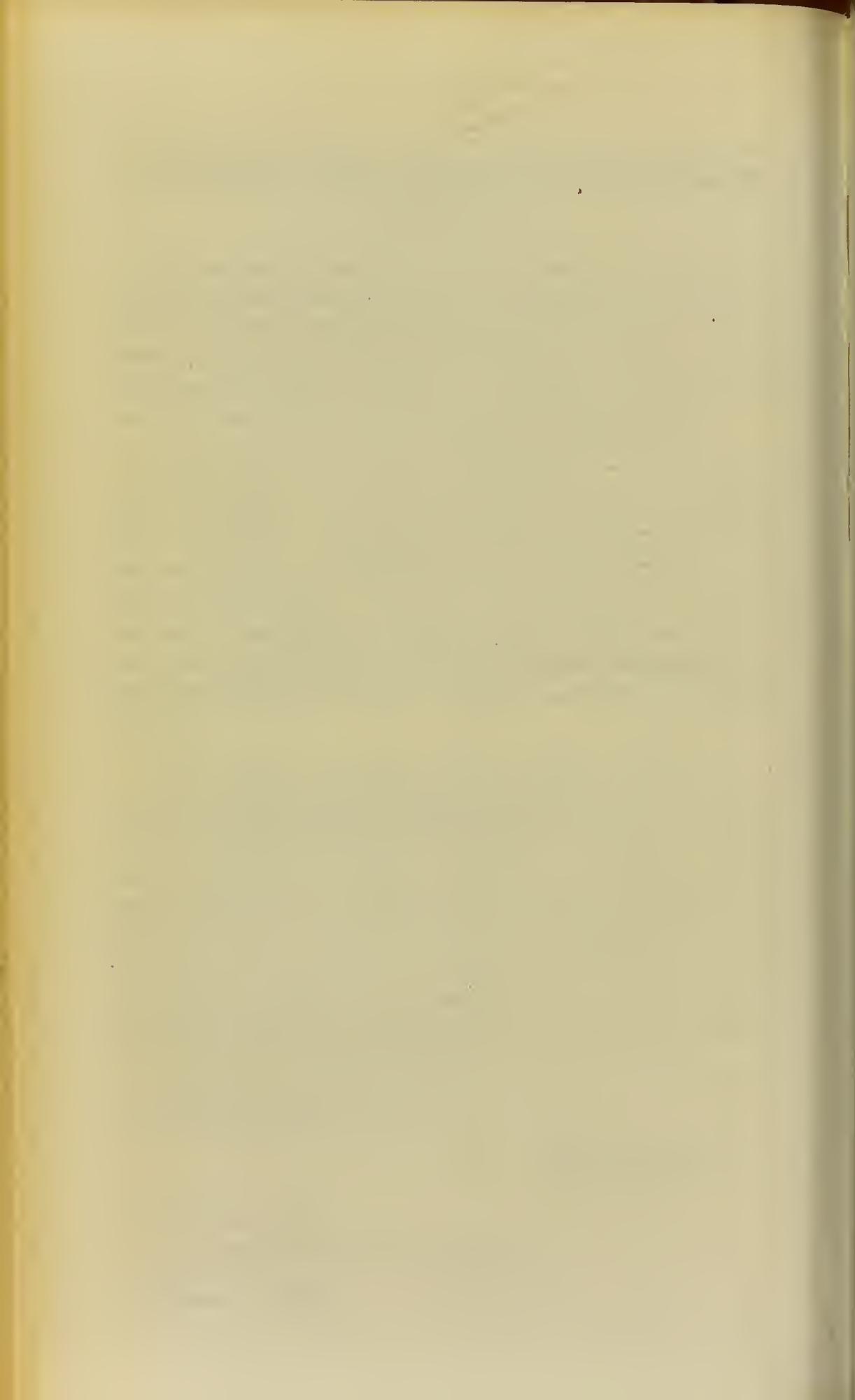
Special Relief Report—No. 1. 16 pp.

W. N. KNAPP.

(Sept. 23, 1861.)

Included in Document 35.





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 30.

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The Committee to whom was referred the subjects of examinations of volunteers and other officers of the Army from civil life, and of reserves—

Respectfully report in part:

1. They deem it of the highest importance that a system of examinations should be established at once, under Sec. 10 of the act of July 22, 1861, by which the qualifications of officers of all the new lines, or all newly-selected officers, of future lines should be sifted. That the examinations should, when practicable, and as far as practicable, be general, so as to avoid making the fact of being examined a stigma. That they should be made as general as practicable under the present circumstances, avoiding, on the one hand, crippling the efficiency of the present army by depriving it of officers, and, on the other, a system inadequate, as to the qualifications required. That they should go as far back, in reference to time when the officers were appointed, as circumstances may permit. Be conducted as rapidly as possible. Refer to practicable military matters, as well as to theory. Be made, as far as possible, by those who, having the requisite knowledge of military matters, are yet from circumstances prevented from active military command.

The Committee propose the following plan, subject to the modifications of the Commission, which they think, will, in a general way, meet the requirements of the important matter committed to them, and provide for a prompt beginning of its execution.

1. To divide the regiments in actual service into two classes: First—Those in which from training already effected, and the positions and duties of the regiments, only those officers shall be closely examined who are reported as defective

by the Brigadier General commanding the brigade to which the regiment is attached, or by the Colonel of the regiment, the others to receive a *pro forma* examination merely.

That inquiry shall be at once addressed to the Brigadiers, and through them to the Colonels of regiments, in reference to the qualifications of officers.

2. Those regiments of the later levies, of which all the officers shall be examined.

The Committee recommend that when the exigencies of the service do not forbid, all officers from civil life should be examined, as the mere fact of examination would otherwise be a stigma upon the examined.

3. That a board of five members be constituted for the purpose of holding examinations, to be selected from paroled Officers, from Professors of the Military Academy, if disposable, from resigned graduates of the U. S. Military Academy, to be commissioned for the purpose, and from other officers of the Army not available for active military service in the field. This will prevent any interference with active military operations, by the constitution of the Board. The system to begin with the Army of the Potomac, and, if successful, to be extended to other divisions.

4. The Board to draw up for the approval of the Commanding Generals of "Departments or Detached Armies" a statement of the qualifications necessary, and a plan of examination and recommendation. The plan of examination to include practical exercises with troops, according to grade.

5. The Board to visit places where masses of troops are congregated, to proceed promptly to examine and report upon the cases of all officers examined.

6. The plans of examination and selection of officers to conform to the laws in regard to volunteers.

7. The Board to present for approval also a plan for camps of instruction, to which officers of promise, not having the attainments necessary for immediate acceptance, may resort.

8. The plans of the Board to suggest the way of dealing with cases in which an officer selected for a certain grade.

and not qualified, is willing to accept a lower one for which he is fully qualified.

9. The Board to make such suggestions from time to time for the approval of the Commanding General, as may meet cases of doubt or difficulty in practice, or as may be judged improvements of the plan of organization and of examination.

The Committee would further present a plan for a school for training rapidly Non-Commissioned Officers, adapted to the prospective wants of the Army, volunteers, and regulars, devised by one of their West Point associates, Professor Mahan.

1. To allow each company to select or nominate the four men under the age of 25 that they may deem the most worthy of promotion to Non-Commissioned Officers.

2. These four men to be examined by a Board of competent officers selected from the Regiment, to ascertain their soldierly and mental attainments, and their moral character. The requisite mental attainments to be to read and spell correctly, write a fair business hand, and to have sufficient knowledge of arithmetic to make out all the papers, &c., of a company. Each nominee also to declare on honor that he has taken no steps, directly or indirectly, to secure his own nomination.

3. The two most competent of the four to be regarded as eligible to promotion; the others returning to the company for another trial, if again selected.

4. All of those selected to be embodied into one corps, and placed under the charge of competent officers, for such a course of instruction as most suitable to make them useful Non-Commissioned or Commissioned Company Officers.

5. That as fast as any of the Corps show themselves qualified in the prescribed course of instruction, they be examined by a competent Board, receive a certificate of qualification, and be returned to their companies as candidates for vacancies.

The Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution by the Commission :



*Resolved*, That the Report of the Committee on Examinations of Officers is adopted as the Report of this Commission, and that a copy be presented to Major General G. B. McClellan, U. S. A., commanding the Army of the Potomac, asking that this plan be put into execution, if approved by him, under the law, as early as practicable.

On behalf of the Committee.

A. D. BACHE;  
Chairman.

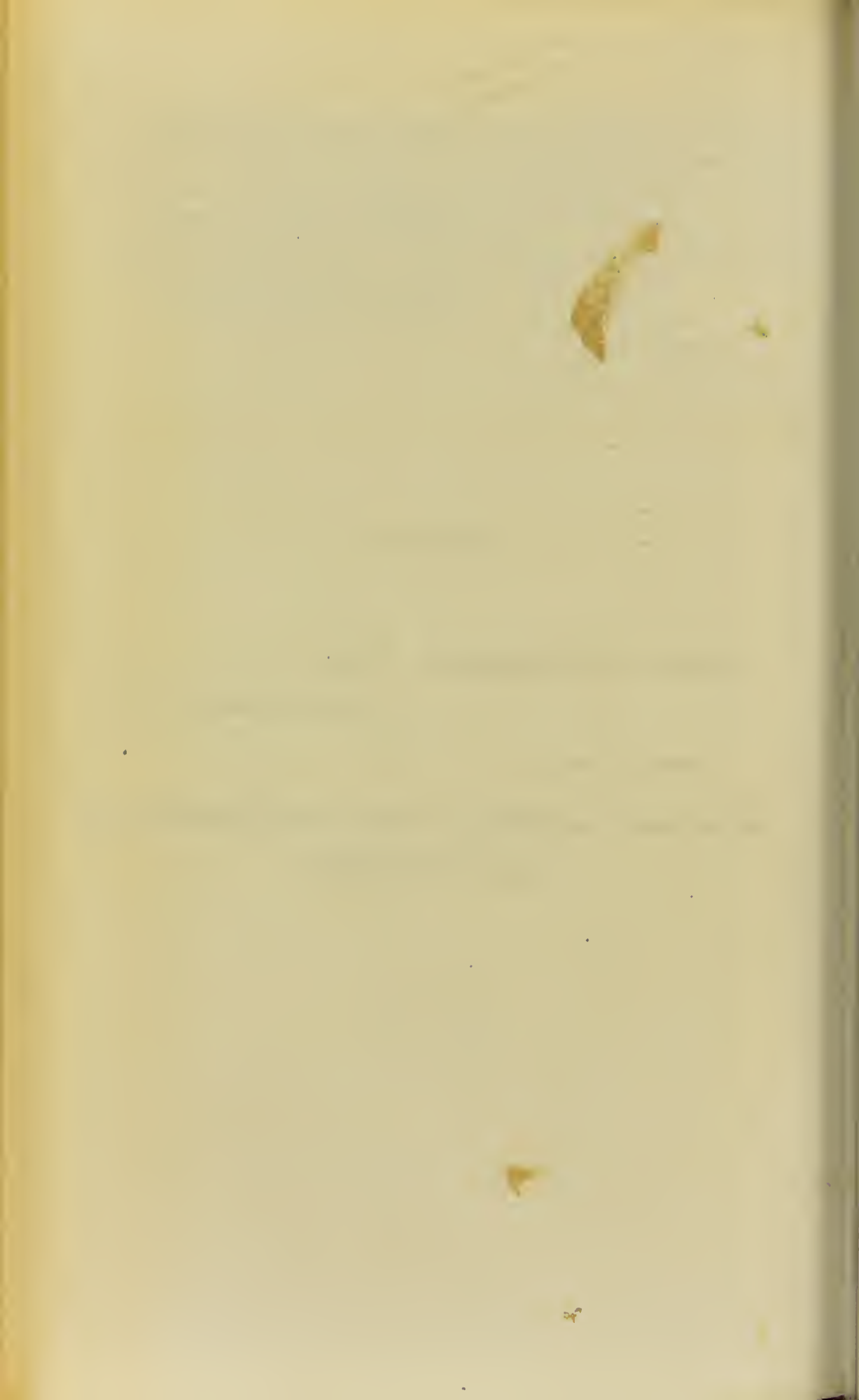
**No. 31.**

Quinine as a Prophylactic. 24 pp.

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

(Sept. 30, 1861.)

Subsequently published as Letter D of the Medical and  
Surgical Monographs.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 32.

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## R E P O R T

CONCERNING THE

Woman's Central Association of Relief at New York,

TO THE

*United States Sanitary Commission at Washington.*

OCTOBER 12, 1861.

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## P R E F A C E.

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TO THE SANITARY COMMISSION OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT:

GENTLEMEN—The efficient aid rendered our Commission by the Woman's Central Association of Relief at New York, has induced me to prepare a report on the origin, organization, and working of that Society, for permanent record among the papers of the Commission, Having been an original member of that Association, I am able to give facts which would be soon lost sight of if not now recorded. I am not without hope, also, that the circulation of this report will be serviceable to the Woman's Central Association, and, through them, to the Sanitary Commission. I have accordingly ordered the printing of it for that purpose.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

Prest.

New York, Oct. 12, 1861.



## THE ORIGIN, ORGANIZATION, AND WORKING OF THE WOMAN'S CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIEF.

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The wants of the Army awakened the attention and solicitude of the women of the country from the very earliest moment that our new War of Independence broke out. The month of April, 1861, was distinguished not more by the universal springing of the grass, than by the uprising of the women of the land. New York specially distinguished herself by the earnestness with which her mothers, wives, and daughters sprang to the succor of the husbands, brothers, and sons of the nation, who were mustering for the battle-field, and were soon to be in imminent peril of their lives. The churches, the schools, the parlors, the bedchambers, were alive with the patriotic industry of those whose fingers could not rest while a stitch could be set, a bandage torn, for the relief of the brave soldiers, girding themselves for the fight. Our noblest surgeons and physicians were lecturing in parlors and vestries on the best methods of making lint and bandages, or cutting hospital garments. Little circles and associations, with patriotic intent, of every name, were multiplying, like rings in the water, over the face of the whole country; they were all in need of information, direction, and guidance.

At a meeting of fifty, or sixty ladies, very informally called at the New York Infirmary for Women, on April 25th, 1861, the providential suggestion of attempting to organize the whole benevolence of the women of the country into a general and central association, was ripened into a plan, and took shape in the following appeal, which at the instance of the following Committee—

Mrs. DUDLEY FIELD,  
Mrs. HENRY BAYLIS,  
Mrs. CYRUS W. FIELD,

Miss E. BLACKWELL, M. D.,  
Dr. HARRIS,  
Dr. BELLOWS, Ch'n.,

was procured to be signed by the ladies whose names are appended. It was published in all the principal New York papers of Monday, April 29th, 1861.

*To the Women of New York, and especially to those already engaged in preparing against the time of wounds and sickness in the Army.*

The importance of systematizing and concentrating the spontaneous and earnest efforts now making by the women of New York, for the supply of extra medical aid to our army through its present campaign, must be obvious to all reflecting persons. Numerous societies, working without concert, organization, or head, without any direct understanding with the official authorities, without any positive instructions as to the immediate or future wants of the army, are liable to waste their enthusiasm in disproportionate efforts, to overlook some claims and overdo others, while they give unnecessary trouble in official quarters, by the variety and irregularity of their proffers of help or their inquiries for guidance.

As no existing organization has a right to claim precedence over any other, or could properly assume to lead in this noble cause, where all desire to be first, it is proposed by the undersigned, members of various circles now actively engaged in this work, that the women of New York should meet in the Cooper Institute, on Monday next, at 11 o'clock A. M., to confer together, and to appoint a General Committee, with power to organize the benevolent purposes of all into a common movement.

To make the meeting practical and effective, it seems proper here to set forth briefly the objects that should be kept in view. The form which woman's benevolence has already taken, and is likely to take, in the present crisis, is, first, the contribution of labor, skill, and money in the preparation of lint, bandages, and other stores, in aid of the wants of the Medical Staff; second, the offer of personal service as nurses.

In regard to the first, it is important to obtain and disseminate exact official information as to the nature and variety of the wants of the Army; to give proper direction and proportion to the labor expended, so as to avoid superfluity in some things and deficiency in others; and to this end, to come to a careful and thorough understanding with the official head of the Medical Staff, through a committee having this department in hand. To this committee should be assigned the duty of conferring with other associations in other parts of the country, and especially, through the press, to keep the women of the loyal States everywhere informed how their efforts may be most wisely and economically employed, and their contributions of all kinds most directly concentrated at New York, and put at the service of the Medical Staff. A central depot would, of course, be the first thing to be desired.

In regard to the second form of benevolence—the offer of personal service as nurses—it is felt that the public mind needs much enlightenment, and the overflowing zeal and sympathy of the women of the nation, a careful channel, not only to prevent waste of time and effort, but to save embarrassment to the official staff, and to secure real efficiency in the service. Should our unhappy war be continued, the Army is certain to want the services of extra nurses, not merely on account of the casualties of the field, but of the camp diseases originating in the exposure of the soldiery to a strange climate and to unaccustomed hardships. The result of all the experience of the Crimean war has been to prove the total uselessness of any but picked and skilled women in this department of duty. The ardor and zeal of all other women should therefore be concentrated upon finding, preparing, and sending, bands of women, of suitable age, constitution, training,

and temperament, to the Army at such points and at such times as they are asked for by the Medical Staff.

A central organization is wanted, therefore, to which all those desiring to go as nurses may be referred, where a committee of examiners, partly medical and partly otherwise, may at once decide upon the fitness of the candidate. Those accepted should then at once be put under competent instruction and discipline—for which it is understood a thorough school will be opened at once by the Medical Faculty of the city—and as occasion offers, the best prepared, in successive order, be sent, under proper escort, to the scene of war, as they are wanted.

It is felt that all who want to go, *and are fitted to go*, should have in their turn a fair chance to do so, and are not unlikely to be wanted sooner or later. Of these, many may be rich and many poor. Some may wish to go at their own charges, and others will require to be aided as to their expenses, and still others, for the loss of their time. But the best nurses should be sent, irrespective of these distinctions—as only the best are economical on any terms.

It will at once appear that without a central organization, with proper authority, there can be no efficiency, system, or discipline in this important matter of nurses—and there can be no organization, to which a cheerful submission will be paid, except it originate in the common will, and become the genuine representative of all the women of New York, and of all the existing associations having this kind of aid in view.

It is obvious that such an organization will require generous contributions, and that all the women of New York and of the country, not otherwise lending aid, will have a direct opportunity of giving support to the object so near their hearts, through the treasury of this common organization.

To consider this matter deliberately, and to take such common action as may then appear wise, we earnestly invite the women of New York, and the pastors of the churches, with such medical advisers as may be specially invited, to assemble for counsel and action, at the Cooper Institute, on Monday morning next, at eleven o'clock.

Mrs. Gen. Dix,	Mrs. M. Catlin,	Mrs. H. W. Bellows,
" Hamilton Fish,	" Chandler,	" Stuart Brown,
" Lewis C. Jones,	" R. B. Winthrop,	" Ellis,
" E. Robinson,	" G. Stuyvesant,	" J. D. Wolfe,
" Wm. Kirkland,	" Geo. Curtis,	" Alonzo Potter,
" Wm. H. Aspinwall,	" A. R. Eno,	" R. Campbell,
" R. B. Minturn,	" W. F. Carey,	" H. K. Bogart,
" Jas. B. Johnson,	" A. S. Hewitt,	" Chas. Butler,
" Judge Roosevelt,	" Dr. Peaslee,	" C. E. Lane,
" A. M. Bininger,	" H. B. Smith,	" M. D. Swett,
" W. C. Bryant,	" R. Hitchcock,	" R. M. Blatchford,
" R. L. Stuart,	" F. F. Marbury,	" S. F. Bridgham,
" D. D. Field,	" F. F. B. Morse,	" A. W. Bradford,
" W. B. Astor, Jr.,	" Judge Daly,	" W. H. Lee,
" M. Grinnell,	" Chas. R. Swords,	" Parke Goodwin,
" G. L. Schuyler,	Miss Marquand,	" H. J. Raymond,
" Peter Cooper.	Mrs. G. Holbrooke.	" S. L. M. Barlow,
" Thos. Tileston,	" D. Adams,	" J. Auchincloss.
" F. S. Wiley,	" H. Webster,	" Walker,
" R. Graceie,	" Moffat,	" Elisha Fish.



Mrs. C. A. Seward,	Mrs. Judge Betts,	Mrs. Jno. Reid,
" S. Osgood,	" Wm. G. Ward,	" C. Newbold,
" Griffin,	" H. E. Eaton,	" J. B. Collins,
" L. M. Rutherford,	" W. C. Evarts,	" J. C. Smith,
" S. J. Baker,	" Judge Bonney,	" Paul Spofford,
" H. Baylis,	Miss Minturn,	" C. W. Field,
" Jno. Sherwood,	Mrs. M. Trimble,	" P. Townsend,
" S. H. Tyng,	" S. B. Collins,	" L. Baker,
" Capt. Shumway,	" R. H. Bowne,	" Chas. King.
" Edwd. Bayard,	" B. R. McIlvaine,	
" Jas. I. Jones,	" N. Lawrence,	

The following article from the columns of the *Tribune*, of Tuesday morning, April 30th, 1861, will show the result of this call. We may add, that a large body of the most distinguished citizens—clergymen, lawyers, physicians, merchants, and philanthropists—occupied the platform with the women who had led in the good cause:

(From the *Tribune*, April 30th.)

#### LADIES' MILITARY RELIEF MEETING AT THE COOPER INSTITUTE.

According to previous announcement, the ladies of this city held a meeting at the Cooper Institute, on Monday morning, for the purpose of maturing some plan of centralized effort for the provision of materials and nurses for the army in the event of active war. The large hall of the Institute was completely filled in every part. On the platform were the wives and daughters of many of our most distinguished citizens.

The chair was occupied by DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, who, in a brief address, set forth the object of the meeting, and called upon

The Rev. Dr. BELLOWS, who made an eloquent speech, in the course of which he presented the importance of any action which the ladies might take in the conflict which had been established between patriotism and rebellion. The mothers and sisters of the first American revolution had imparted courage to the fathers and brothers who had gone forth to do battle for the right; and it was no evil omen to find the same relationships in the present crisis



In this way the national heart spoke out its better sentiments. Its virtue gave impulse to every instinct of patriotism, and was a sure defence of American dignity and power.

The Hon. HANNIBAL HAMLIN, Vice-President of the United States, whose unexpected presence created much interest, when he rose to speak was received with shouts of applause from all parts of the house. He spoke briefly, in a strain of high and commanding eloquence, expressing the delight with which he witnessed the uprising of the people to sustain the government and defend the country. Here was a vast assemblage collected from humble and luxurious homes. The occasion was one which warranted this. All that we hold dear, whether in social or commercial life, is at stake, is in peril. There is nothing in commerce, nothing in domestic life, that is not in issue. What are they if they are not guarded and protected by law? The government is attempted to be subverted. Our stars and stripes have been ignominiously treated. Our fortifications have been taken by rebels, and our government threatened with subversion, till we have all been united. We have no other course but to vindicate the integrity of our government. False is the humanity that could falter now in this hour of trouble. Our safety is in the loyalty of the people; our destruction with those who hesitate. We must now test the question whether we have a government. To abandon it is to abandon all. The contest is said to be a sectional one. The actual question is one of government or no government, and we have got that to settle; whether we have a government, whether we received one from our fathers, and whether we will transmit it to our posterity. On this question, however, the people may array themselves in sections, the people were all loyal, and desired to uphold the Union and the Constitution; but the way to save the Union was to uphold the government. The country could not be saved otherwise than through its constitutional rulers. He was delighted to see so many assembled, ready and willing to take their share in the cause, and to help in saving the country. Rome, in the days of her greatest renown, never witnessed such a sight; the world, he might say, had never seen its like. They were met to systematize

their effort to relieve the sick and wounded. God bless the women. The whole women of the North was with them, and from every hill and valley throughout New England, they would pour in their contributions in aid of the cause, and present themselves personally offerings upon the altars of their country. Mr. Hamlin sat down amid great applause.

The CHAIRMAN said there were two gentlemen present who had been at Fort Sumter, and he would call upon one of them to address the meeting.

Dr. CRAWFORD rose, and advanced to the front of the platform, and briefly addressed the meeting. He said, that the medical men had met to render their assistance to the ladies, and that in such a movement it was proper to make the headquarters at New York.

Dr. WOOD said, he was requested by the medical gentlemen connected with the Bellevue Hospital, to state that they were ready to render all the assistance in their power to the ladies, by advice, and by the training of nurses at the institution. The supporters of that institution would take at least fifty, and support and qualify them to go out and act as nurses. He desired that the Committee of ladies would act with the medical gentlemen in the selection of such as were suitable to be taken in and trained for nurses. He mentioned, that for the same purpose, the institution on Blackwell's Island would be at their disposal, and that no effort on the part of the faculty would be wanting to send out competent nurses.

Dr. VALENTINE MOTT said that the ordinary and extraordinary, or consulting surgeons, would do everything possible to qualify those who should come under their care for nursing the sick and wounded. From what he had learned, he said that it would take a seven years' war to use up all the bandages already provided. There were wagon loads of lint now ready, so heartily had the ladies gone into the work; but if their efforts were carried on in a desultory way, much would be thrown away. As for nurses, he said it was not every woman that could do for a nurse; some were born for nurses; they were naturally fitted for it; others never could be fitted for its duties, but an intelligent, competent

woman, in the hands of a competent doctor, could soon be fitted for the sick room.

Dr. A. H. STEVENS said, it was of much importance to make a good selection in the persons sent to the Hospital to be trained. Some fainted at the sight of blood, others were born to be nurses—they wanted women of discreet manners with strong constitutions, to reside for a month at Bellevue Hospital.

The Rev. Dr. Bethune, Dr. Satterlee, the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. Church and Dr. Sayre, also briefly addressed the meeting.

The Committee appointed to prepare a plan of operations, reported the following—

#### ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION.

##### *Woman's Central Association for the Sick and Wounded of the Army.*

I. The women of New York hereby associate themselves as a Committee of the whole, for the furnishing of comforts and medical stores, and especially of nurses, in aid of the Medical Staff of the army during the present war.

II. To give organization and efficiency to the scattered efforts, now so widely and earnestly making, and to increase and magnify these humane labors, they hereby resolve themselves into a "Woman's Central Association of Relief."

III. The objects of this Association shall be to collect and distribute information, obtained from Official sources, concerning the actual and probable wants of the army; to establish a recognized union with the Medical Staff of the Federal and State Troops, and to act as auxiliary to their efforts; to unite with the New York Medical Association, for the supply of lint, bandages, &c., in sustaining a central depot of stores; to solicit and accept the aid of all local associations, here or elsewhere, choosing to act through this society, and especially to open a bureau for the examination and registration of candidates, for medical instruction as nurses, and to take measures for securing a supply of well-trained nurses against any possible demand of the war.



IV. A President, Treasurer, and Secretary, chosen at their first meeting, shall perform the duties usually connected with those offices in societies analogous to this.

V. The Board of Managers shall appoint three committees of eight each, and severally called the Financial, the Executive, and the Registration Committees.

VI. The Financial Committee shall be charged with the duty of soliciting, guarding, and disbursing the funds of this association, and of holding its other property. The callers of this meeting, and all the women of New York and the country, are invited to lend their aid in swelling the resources of this organization. The treasurer shall give speedy notice through the newspapers of all the moneys or contributions, in any form, received by the Central Association. Subscriptions shall be solicited through the public press. A rigid economy shall be required of the Financial Committee, and all funds in their hands at the expiration of the war, shall be given to existing charities in the city, according to the will and appointment of the callers of this meeting (and the officers of affiliated societies) convened for that purpose. The operations of the Central Association, shall proceed upon a scale proportioned to the funds received, and its activity must depend for its very commencement on immediate contributions of money and stores, which are hereby solicited.

VII. The Executive Committee shall select their own chairman; shall establish direct relations with the central authorities of the Medical Staff and with the Hospital Committee, on the education of nurses; obtain and diffuse all necessary information for the better guidance of affiliated and subsidiary associations; keep the women of the country apprised, through the press, of the best direction their industry can take, and superintend the reception and transfer of stores; devise ways and means of increasing and improving the usefulness of the association, and carry out generally the orders of the Board.

VIII. The Committee of Registration, acting in general with the Hospital Committee, shall have joint charge of the examination and registration of all those offering them-



selves as nurses, in co-operation with the plans and purposes of the Hospital Committee for their education. They shall have charge of the Bureau of Registration, to be opened as soon as possible at a convenient room in the city.

IX. The Board of Management, appointed by the meeting, shall enter at once upon its duties. It shall meet weekly during the war; but five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business.

X. The association shall be governed in all its affairs by a board of managers, twelve of whom shall be ladies and twelve gentlemen, who shall select their own officers, and fill all vacancies in their number, and this board shall consist of the following persons:

Mrs. HAMILTON FISH,	Dr. VAL. MOTT,
" H. BAYLIS,	JOHN D. WOLFE,
" H. D. SWEET,	HECTOR MORRISON,
" CHAS. ABERNETHY,	FREDERICK L. OLMSTED,
Miss E. BLACKWELL,	GEO. F. ALLEN,
Mrs. CYRUS W. FIELD,	Dr. ELISHA HARRIS,
" G. L. SCHUYLER,	" MARKOE.
" D'OREMIEULX,	" DRAPER,
" DR. ED. BAYARD,	Rev. Dr. HAGUE,
" CHRISTINE GRIFFIN,	" " BELLOWS,
" V. BOTTA,	" " A. D. SMITH,
" C. M. KIRKLAND,	" MORGAN DIX.

The Board of Management met immediately and finally organized, with the following officers and committees:

*President.*

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.

*Vice President,*

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.

*Secretary,*

GEORGE F. ALLEN, Esq.

*Treasurer,*

HOWARD POTTER, Esq.

*of the firm Brown, Brothers & Co., 59 Wall street.*

Several gentlemen of the original board declining, their places were filled by others, and the three committees constituted in the following manner:

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

H. W. BELLOWS, D. D., <i>Chairman</i> ,	VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.,
Mrs. G. L. SCHUYLER,	T. D'OREMIEULX,
Miss COLLINS,	W. H. DRAPER, M. D.
F. L. OLMSTED, Esq.,	G. F. ALLEN, Esq.

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

E. BLACKWELL, M. D., <i>Chairman</i> ,	Mrs. W. P. GRIFFIN, <i>Secretary</i> ,
Mrs. H. BAYLIS,	" J. A. SWETT,
" V. BOTTA,	" C. ABERNETHY,
WM. A. MUHLENBERG, D. D.,	E. HARRIS, M. D.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE.

HOWARD POTTER, Esq.,	Mrs. HAMILTON FISH,
JOHN D. WOLFE, Esq.,	" C. M. KIRKLAND,
WILLIAM HAGUE, D. D.,	" C. W. FIELD,
J. H. MARKOE, M. D.,	ASA D. SMITH, D. D.

Peter Cooper, Esq., kindly furnished rooms for meeting, and a store-room for receiving supplies, in the Cooper Union building. The business of the association soon increased so rapidly, as to compel the society to hire a store in the building, No. 10 Cooper Union, (on Third avenue,) where they now receive all their supplies and transact the business of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Bellows, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, with Dr. E. Harris, having united with a Committee of the New York Medical Association, for the supply of lint and bandages, viz., Dr. W. H. Van Buren and Dr. Harsen, went to Washington early in May for the purpose of establishing that connection with the U. S. Government referred to in the third article of the Constitution.

Having discovered the extreme difficulty of obtaining accurate information, even from the Government itself—perplexed and embarrassed by the suddenness and the extent of the war upon its hands—and the futility of carrying out the plans of the Woman's Central Association, or those of any other benevolent society of similar ends, without a much larger kind of machinery and a much more extensive system than had been originally contemplated—the idea of a "Sanitary Commission" with a resident organization at Washington, suddenly presented itself to the Committee as the only means of a solution of the difficulties with which

the benevolent intentions of the women of the country were threatened, and the following letter to the Secretary of War initiated that plan. We publish it, because it explains the origin of the connection of the Association with the U. S. Sanitary Commission—which thus in fact grew out of the Woman's Central Association :

*To the Secretary of War :*

SIR—The undersigned, representing three Associations of the highest respectability in the city of New York, namely, the Woman's Central Association of Relief for the Sick and Wounded of the Army, the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals of New York, the New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies in aid of the Army, beg leave to address the Department of War in behalf of the objects committed to them as a mixed Delegation with due credentials.

These three Associations being engaged at home in a common object, are acting together with great efficiency and harmony, to contribute towards the comfort and security of our troops, by methodizing the spontaneous benevolence of the City and State of New York; obtaining information from the public authorities of the best methods of aiding your Department with such supplies as the regulations of the army do not provide, or the sudden and pressing necessities of the time do not permit the Department to furnish; and, in general, striving to play into the hands of the regular authorities in ways as efficient and as little embarrassing as extra official co-operation can be.

These Associations would not trouble the War Department with any call on its notice, if they were not persuaded that some positive recognition of their existence and efforts was essential to the peace and comfort of the several Bureaus of the War Department itself. The present is essentially a people's war. The hearts and minds, the bodies and souls, of the whole people and of both sexes throughout the loyal States, are in it. The rush of volunteers to arms is equalled by the enthusiasm and zeal of the women of the Nation, and the clerical and medical professions vie with each other in their ardor to contribute in some manner to the success of our noble and sacred cause. The War Department will hereafter, therefore, inevitably experience in all its bureaus the incessant and irrepressible motions of this zeal, in the offer of medical aid, the applications of nurses, and the contribution of supplies. Ought not this noble and generous enthusiasm to be encouraged and utilized? Would not the Department win a still higher place in the confidence and affections of the good people of the loyal States, and find itself generally strengthened in its efforts, by accepting in some positive manner, the services of the Associations we represent, which are laboring to bring into system and practical shape the general zeal and benevolent activity of the women of the land in behalf of the Army? And would not a great economy of time, money, and effort be secured by fixing and regulating the relations of the Volunteer Associations to the War Department, and especially to the Medical Bureau?

Convinced by inquiries made here of the practical difficulty of reconciling the aims of their own and numerous similar Associations in other cities with the regular workings of the Commissariat and the Medical Bureau, and yet fully persuaded of the importance to the country, and to the success of the war, of bringing such



an arrangement about, the undersigned respectfully ask that a mixed Commission of civilians, distinguished for their philanthropic experience and acquaintance with Sanitary matters, of medical men, and of military officers, be appointed by the Government, who shall be charged with the duty of investigating the best means of methodizing and reducing to practical service the already active but undirected benevolence of the people toward the Army; who shall consider the general subject of the prevention of sickness and suffering among the troops, and suggest the wisest methods, which the people at large can use to manifest their good will towards the comfort, security, and health of the Army.

It must be well known to the Department of War that several such Commissions *followed* the Crimean and Indian wars. The civilization and humanity of the age and of the American people, demand that such a Commission should *precede* our second War of Independence—more sacred than the first. We wish to prevent the evils that England and France could only investigate and deplore. This war ought to be waged in a spirit of the highest intelligence, humanity, and tenderness for the health, comfort, and safety of our brave troops. And every measure of the Government that shows its sense of this, will be eminently popular, strengthen its hands, and redound to its glory at home and abroad.

The undersigned are charged with several specific petitions, additional to that of asking for a Commission for the purposes above described, although they all would fall under the duties of that Commission.

1. They ask that the Secretary of War will order some new rigor in the inspection of volunteer troops, as they are persuaded that under the present State regulations throughout the country a great number of under-aged and unsuitable persons are mustered, who are likely to swell the bills of mortality in the Army to a fearful per centage, to encumber the hospitals and embarrass the columns. They ask either for an order of re-inspection of the troops already mustered, or a summary discharge of those obviously destined to succumb to the diseases of the approaching summer. It is unnecessary to argue the importance of a measure so plainly required by common humanity and economy of life and money.

2. The Committee are convinced by the testimony of the Medical Bureau itself, and the evidence of the most distinguished Army officers, including the Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant General Thomas, and the acting Surgeon General, that the cooking of the volunteer and new regiments in general is destined to be of the most crude and perilous description, and that no preventive measure could be so effectual in preserving health and keeping off disease, as an order of the Department requiring a skilled cook to be enlisted in each company of the regiments. The Woman's Central Association, in connection with the Medical Boards, are prepared to assume the duty of collecting, registering, and instructing a body of cooks, if the Department will pass such an order, accompanying it with the allotment of such wages as are equitable.

3. The Committee represent that the Woman's Central Association of Relief have selected and are selecting, out of several hundred candidates, one hundred women suited, in all respects to become nurses in the General Hospitals of the Army. These women the distinguished physicians and surgeons of the various hospitals in New York have undertaken to *educate and drill in a most thorough and laborious manner*; and the Committee ask that the War Department consent to receive, on wages, these nurses, in such numbers as the exigencies of the campaign may require. It is not proposed that the nurses should advance to the seat of war,



*until directly called for by the Medical Bureau here, or that the Government should be at any expense until they are actually in service.*

4. The Committee ask that the Secretary of War issue an order that in case of need the Medical Bureau may call to the aid of the regular medical force a set of volunteer dressers, composed of young medical men, drilled for this purpose by the hospital physicians and surgeons of New York, giving them such subsistence and such recognition as the rules of the service may allow under a generous construction.

It is believed that a Commission would bring these and other matters of great interest and importance to the health of the troops into the shape of easy and practical adoption. But if no Commission is appointed, the Committee pray that the Secretary will order the several suggestions made to be carried into immediate effect, if consistent with the laws of the Department, or possible without the action of Congress.

Feeling themselves directly to represent large and important constituencies, and, indirectly, a wide-spread and commanding public sentiment, the Committee would most respectfully urge the immediate attention of the Secretary to the objects of their prayer.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.,  
W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,  
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,  
J. HARSEN, M. D.

WASHINGTON, *May* 18, 1861.

The Sanitary Commission was duly ordered by the Secretary of War, June 9, 1861, and went into immediate operation.

It established the closest practical relations with the Woman's Central Association, and looked very largely to it for supplies and for nurses; and finally, by formal vote ratified on both sides, the Woman's Central was made a branch of the Sanitary Commission, and is now working (although with a wholly independent organization) under its guidance, and for its aid and support.

Here follows the vote by which this connection was established.

At a regular meeting of the Sanitary Commission, held September 10, 1861, the following resolutions were offered by George T. Strong, Esq., seconded by Bishop Clark, and unanimously passed by the Board:

*“Resolved, That the Woman's Central Relief Association of New York is hereby, at its own generous instance, constituted an auxiliary branch of the Sanitary Commission, retaining full power to conduct its own affairs in all respects*

independently of the Commission, neither the Commission nor the Association being in any way responsible for any pecuniary liabilities or obligations, except such as are contracted or incurred by itself, or its authorized agents.

“*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary of the Board communicate in writing semi-weekly with the Woman's Central Relief Association, keeping it regularly informed of the wants of the army, and the expectations of the Commission from that source of supply.”

Meanwhile the several committees of the “Woman's Central” had taken up their work with faith and earnestness, and none but those who have immediately overlooked it can appreciate the amount of time and labor it has demanded and received.

I. The *Financial Committee*, on whose success the possibility of the scheme depended, found in its chairman, Mrs. Hamilton Fish, a most laborious and successful agent. Indeed, she may be said to have saved the other members of the Committee the largest part of their burdens, pouring into the treasury, by her own single exertions, up to this date, the sum of \$5,124, while the whole receipts from other sources have been \$2,091 93.

It will, however, be necessary, as the sphere of the Woman's Central Association increases, that all the members of the committee should exhibit a similar activity, even if they may not expect similar success. Unquestionably, the Association will require additional funds, as the nature of its operations will show. To what could the beneficence of the wealthy women of the land be more worthily directed than to the support of the operations of that society? We ask for it their generous and their immediate aid, equally in stores and in money.

II. The *Registration Committee* has had a most serious and laborious work on its hands, little understood by the public. The daily attention of its members was for months given to the arduous toil of selecting from hundreds of applicants, women fit to receive an education as nurses. It divided itself into the following sub-committees:

- 1st. On Applications.
- 2d. On Examination of Testimonials.
- 3d. On Superintendence in the Hospitals.
- 4th. On Outfit and Forwarding.

The following report by Miss E. Blackwell, Chairman of the Registration Committee, will show the principles by which the Committee was guided in its work:

REPORT OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE, ON THE SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF NURSES FOR THE ARMY.

*Adopted by the Board of Managers in May, 1861.*

As there exists at present in the public mind very little positive knowledge in relation to army nursing, it is of great importance that certain facts should be widely circulated, which will show to all, and particularly to the women interested in this subject, what can and what cannot be accomplished by them. It is believed that when the conditions under which army-nursing by women is alone possible and proper are fully understood, much of the noble enthusiasm of women, whose sole desire is to serve their country in this momentous crisis, will be directed into other channels, where intelligent and patriotic effort is imperatively called for.

The first fact to be distinctly understood is this, viz., that women have not hitherto been employed in military hospitals as nurses. The nursing is done by soldiers drafted out of the ranks for that purpose, and there is no provision whatever for boarding, paying, or in any way recognizing women in the capacity of nurses to sick soldiers. Women, therefore, who now go on to Washington with the idea of nursing, go there on their own responsibility, and find themselves without recognition by the authorities, with no proper provision for their support, and with no work to do. There is now a considerable number of these volunteer nurses in Washington. A letter has already been received by a member of our board from Miss D. L. Dix, containing an informal request from the authorities that no more volunteer lady nurses be encouraged to come on *until officially requested*, as it would prove embarrassing to have more there at present.

At the same time we have received from the Chief Medical Bureau of the Army, the following statement, to wit: that the plans now in progress under the direction of this Association, and the hospitals of this city, receive the full approbation of the proper authorities, and that the services of the bands of nurses selected and proposed under those plans will be gratefully accepted whenever such services can be consistently called into requisition.

The second fact to be widely known is this, viz., that nursing in military hospitals is a very different thing from nursing in civil hospitals, and still more from private nursing. The class of patients to be nursed, the character of the under nurses, who will always be men, the social isolation of the position, and the absolute necessity of enforcing military discipline, combine to render nursing in military hospitals, a service of peculiar difficulty, which can only be accomplished successfully by a select and disciplined band of nurses. Of course, such service could not be rendered by the young and inexperienced, nor by those possessing delicate constitutions, nor by persons of unsteady character. Women in middle life, intelligent, trustworthy, and zealous in their work, are the suitable individuals from whom this band should be formed.



In accordance with the above views, and guided by the printed records of Miss Nightingale's invaluable experience in army-nursing, and the testimony of military surgeons, the following regulations for selecting candidates have been drawn up—these regulations being approved by the Hospital Association, to whom they were submitted :

*Age.*—Each candidate must be between the ages of thirty and forty-five years, exceptions being only made in the case of nurses of valuable experience.

*Health.*—Only women of strong constitutions will be received ; chronic disease, or other physical weakness, disqualifying for service.

*Character.*—Every applicant must present a written testimonial or introduction from a responsible person who can be seen. If the applicant be accepted, these testimonials will be filed, and the name of the referee entered on the register of nurses. Only persons of the highest respectability will be received. While the utmost delicacy is used in such investigation, the requisition of morality, sobriety, honesty, and trustworthiness will be rigidly enforced.

*Discipline.*—A promise of cordial compliance with all the regulations of the service will be required ; the subordination of nurses to the general superintendent, and of all to the medical authorities, being distinctly insisted on. Each candidate will be required to sign the printed regulations of the service.

*Dress.*—A regulation dress will be appointed by the board, which each nurse will be required to adopt, no hoops being allowed in the service. A committee on outfit will be appointed to superintend the wardrobe of the nursing corps, which will be regulated by the amount of baggage allowed to each individual.

*Admission.*—Each registered candidate will receive a ticket of admission signed by the Secretary of this Board. She will take this ticket to the Hospital Committee for counter signature, and will then enter upon the course of instruction arranged by the Physicians and this Board.

*Number of Candidates.*—The number of nurses required will necessarily be limited, for each woman must be qualified to act as a chief or head nurse. Ten Bands, or a class of one hundred, will now be enrolled, due notice being given in the daily journals when the lists are full. Should a second corps be needed, the call will again be published in the papers.

The Registration Committee meet daily in the Cooper Institute, in the Philosophical Rooms, on the fourth floor, between the hours of two and four P. M. They earnestly invite all ladies possessing the necessary qualifications to present themselves for registration. Those who are fitted by nature and position to engage in this new and difficult work, will render invaluable aid to their country by devoting themselves to its thorough accomplishment ; and we call upon all women to sustain this Association in its labors, by encouraging suitable applicants to come forward, and by collecting the funds which will be needed for the outfit, support, and transport of the Bands of Nurses.

To carry out these results and the spirit of the report required the utmost vigilance, the soundest judgment, and the most devoted persistency.

1st. To receive applications, of which hundreds were made in person.

2d. To answer and file letters on the subject, which were numerous, and admitted not of merely formal answers.



3d. To investigate testimonials—a work of extreme care and solieitude.

4th. To introduce and overlook the nurses in their education in the Hospitals.

5th. To attend to their outfit, and see that those who went were suffieiently and properly clothed.

6th. To summon and forward the several bands called for—often unexpectedly—from Washington. For it will be remembered that these women, after receiving their education, scattered to their homes, which were often distant, and had to be re-collected. To keep them from discouragement, on account of inevitable delays and the long suspense of the War Department and the Medical Bureau as to the terms on which they could be received into the service, was a task of delieaey and difficulty, and involved—

7th. The necessity of seeking reliable information from Washington as to the nursing service—a duty which took two of the ladies of the association, Miss E. Blackwell and Mrs. Griffin, to Washington, to make personal investigations into the condition, relations, and prospects of the nurses already forwarded.

8th. To keep accurate and systematic accounts.

9th. To report the proceedings of the Committee of Registration to the association.

10th. To prepare statements of what had been done by the committee for the press, and manage their insertion in the public journals.

All these duties have been performed by the Committee of Registration in a most thorough, consciontious, and successful manner.

It is to be regretted that a more favorable account of the way in which the nurses have been received and treated in the hospitals cannot be given. They have not been placed, as they expected and were fitted to be, in the position of head nurses. On the contrary, with a very inefficient force of male nurses, they have been ealled on to do every form of service, have been over-tasked and worn down with menial and purely mechanical duties, additional to the more responsible offices and duties of nursing. They have encountered a certain

amount of suspieion, jealousy and ill-treatment, which has rendered their situation very trying. It must be confessed that the intrinsic difficulties of their situation are very great; that women nurses in military hospitals, though most grateful to the sick soldier himself, are objects of continual evil speaking among coarse subordinates, are looked at with a doubtful eye by all but the most enlightened surgeons, and have a very uncertain, semi-legal position, with poor wages and little sympathy, except from the sick and wounded men they comfort and bless. Nothing but the most patriotic and humane motives could sustain women in this position. These nurses have commonly, almost always, proved worthy of the confidence so carefully reposed in them by the society. They have been only *too refined* for their places. The association does not feel authorized to send on more from the same class of life from which these have come—certainly not until their position and relations are essentially improved. The society is deeply convinced of the wisdom of absolutely withholding all nurses not over thirty years of age, and of sending none but those of settled character, with marked sobriety of manners and appearance. We are convinced of the value and importance of supplying the hospitals with women nurses. Those which have been sent have done a work of unspeakable importance; indeed, have been indispensable. It is impossible to tell what increase of suffering and mortality would have occurred but for their incessant exertions. Some of these women have brought the blessings of those ready to perish abundantly upon their heads, and their names will be held in undying reverence and affection by wounded soldiers saved to their country and their families by their watchful and tender devotion.

Up to this date the association has forwarded thirty-two nurses to Washington. Miss Dix has received them (and as many others, perhaps, from other quarters, of similar efficiency and worth,) and they have been distributed as follows:

Columbia Hospital .....	5
Georgetown Hospital.....	7
“      Seminary Hospital.....	2
Alexandria General Hospital.....	8
“      Seminary Hospital.....	6
General Hospital, Baltimore.....	2
At large, to assist Miss Dix.....	2

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A few other nurses are in training, and more will be put in training if required. It seems probable that the prospective hospital accommodations for 15,000 beds, to be erected, it is hoped, under the auspices of the Sanitary Commission, will require, and will allow, the aid of women nurses, under far better conditions of comfort than have hitherto existed. It seems important, therefore, that the training of at least a hundred good nurses should be at once proceeded with.\*

III. *The Executive Committee* have had charge, as appears by the constitution of the society, of the whole subject of supplies :

1st. Obtaining information in regard to what was wanted at Washington and elsewhere—a question of the utmost difficulty. The want of supplies could not be theorized about nor answered in advance. The real difficulty of the want of supplies has been, that Government was ready to purchase all articles allowed by the Army Regulation ; but they have not been able to procure them as fast as they were wanted. *Contractors* have failed, the fulfilment of orders is delayed, and a temporary want is felt, which the Commission, through the labors of the women of the country, is designed to supply. Then, in addition to things allowed by the Regulation, there are a considerable number of articles essential to the comfort and health of soldiers not taken into view by the Army Regulations—and quite as necessary to a volunteer soldier as those which are allowed by Government. These, private benevolence must provide. The Government has not been ready to publish its necessities in advance, to confess its weakness in these respects, too broadly, and therefore there have been

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\* A “Manual for Nurses,” containing recipes for articles of diet for the sick, prepared at the instance of the Med. Ass., for the supply of lint and bandages, was published, and has been somewhat used in the hospitals.



contradictory reports flying abroad that the benevolence of the public was not necessary ; that the Government was doing, or could do, or ought to do, all that the public was spontaneously attempting. Meanwhile bare feet, tattered and unchanged shirts, blanketless limbs, and untold destitution have existed, and still exist, spite of the legal obligations and the best exertions of the Government. And it is only ignorance and selfishness which cry with such impertinent confidence, that the benevolence of the public is needless and wasteful. There never was greater need of exertion than now, and almost everything in the shape of army clothing, whether for sick or for well soldiers—uniforms excepted—is needed and is called for by the Sanitary Commission, and by this Branch of it.

2d. The next duty of the Executive Committee has been to organize a system of supply, by circulating the information obtained from Headquarters, and by advertisement; and still more by direct appeal, to stir up and give systematic shape to the kindly and patriotic impulses of the women of the country far and wide. In the performance of this duty an extended correspondence was at once opened, and the result has been the affiliation of the Woman's Central with a large number of societies, churches, and communities, principally in New York and the adjoining States. The great business of obtaining supplies is still kept up only by the aid of an incessant and systematic correspondence, to which has been added personal solicitation of stores, from grocers, merchants, and others, by patriotic women, willing to humble themselves in this always arduous and mortifying service.

3d. The reception, storage, unpacking, classification, and repacking of these supplies, many of them sent in a form liable to injury, and all needing care and rearrangement, has required the daily care of the Committee, and the help of two men. The marking of the goods with the stamp of the Society is necessary to vindicate the good faith of the Association with the public, and to let the soldiers know, and through them the donors, where their gifts have gone.

4th. The sending off of these goods to Washington, St. Louis, and elsewhere, has involved business arrangements



with Express Companies and forwarders, requiring constant attention, tact, and system. The United States and American Express bring our goods wholly free. Adams Express carries the goods of this Association at half price. A semi-weekly correspondence with Washington keeps "The Woman's Central" perpetually well informed of the wants of the Army.

5th. The advertising of the Association, and its appeals through the New York papers, has been chiefly conducted by the Secretary, G. F. Allen, Esq., and we are glad to acknowledge that this costly part of our service, which involves us, at least, to the extent of \$50 per month, is usually done by the papers at half price.

It would be ungrateful not to acknowledge here the zeal, devotion, and ability of one of the ladies of this Committee, Mrs. d'Oremieulx, now absent from the country, and therefore not improperly to be mentioned, who labored incessantly in the earlier months of the organization, and gave a most vital start to the life of this Committee.

We are able here to furnish a table of the supplies received by the Woman's Central from its origin to the present date, and their disbursements:

Rec'd to October 10, 1861.

Hospital garments.....	32,295	Jelly and preserves.....	2,088 pkgs.
Bedding .....	15,147	Wines and other liquors....	601 qts.
Havclocks.....	6,112	Farina, tea, sugar.....	623 pkgs.
Miscellaneous articles*	4,475		

*Forwarded to Sanitary Com. in Washington.*

Hospital garments.....	21,447	Mis. articles.....	1,430
Bedding.....	8,160	Edibles .....	60 boxes.
Havelocks .....	1,997	Books.....	11 "

*Sanitary Com. St. Louis.*

Hos. garments.....	2,035	Lint and bandages &c.....	1 box.
Bedding.....	1,423		

*To Miss Dix.*

2 boxes edibles.

4 boxes fans, containing 1,000 each.

*To Georgetown Hospital.*

6 boxes edibles.

*To Fortress Monroe.*

5 boxes edibles.

138 Havelocks.

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\* Eye-shades, pin-cushions, needle-cases, lint, and bandages, parcels of old linen and muslin, sponges, rolls of cotton batting, &c.

*To Med. Ass.*

Hos. garments.....	603	Havelocks.....	734
Bedding.....	532	Bandages, lint, &c.....	842

*To Various Regiments.*


1667 Havelocks,  
466 flannel shirts, also soeks, lint, &c.

The following circular containing latest directions is also to be sent forth:

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.  
WOMAN'S CENTRAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION.  
10 *Cooper Union, Third Avenue.*

## LIST OF SUPPLIES.

1. Bandages—Assorted, without selvages; shrunk and tightly rolled.
  - 1 dozen, 1 inch wide, 1 yard long.
  - 2 dozen, two inches wide, 3 yards long.
  - 2 dozen,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 3 yards long,
  - 1 dozen, 3 inches wide, 4 yards long.
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 5 yards long.
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen, 4 inches wide, 6 yards long.
2. Lint—Seraped and raveled, in equal proportions, packed in boxes of uniform size.
3. Ring Pads and Cushions stuffed with hair and feathers.
4. Long Cotton and Canton Flannel Shirts,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards long; 2 breadths of unbleached cotton,  $\frac{7}{8}$  yard wide, open 9 inches at the bottom; length of sleeve,  $\frac{5}{8}$  yard; length of arm-hole, 12 inches; length of band, 20 inches; open in front, to the bottom—a piece 4 inches wide lapping under—fastened with tapes.
5. Short Shirts, made like long, only 1 yard long, and open in front.
6. Loose Canton Flannel and Woollen Drawers.
7. Dressing Gowns of double calico.
8. Eye-Shades, of green silk, with elastics.
9. Handkerchiefs, towels, and slippers.
10. Bed Sacking, of ticking, 7 feet long and 1 yard wide; open at one end, with strings.
11. Pillow-Sacks, of ticking, 16 inches wide and 30 inches long; Pillow-Cases, of cotton,  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard wide, 1 yard long.
12. Linen and Cotton Sheets, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long.
13. White or Gray Flannel Hospital Undershirts—two breadths flannel, gusset at the neck, narrow neck-band.
14. Blankets for single beds.
15. Quilts, 7 feet by 50 inches.
16. Knit Woollen Soeks.

 Some of the shirts should have the sleeves open on the outside to the shoulder with strings.

## EDIBLES.

1. Arrowroot; Condensed Milk.
2. Whiskey; Brandy; White Wine—for wine whey, etc.
3. Pure Lemon Syrup.

4. Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, Oatmeal, Crackers.
5. Spices, Condiments, Desiccated Vegetables.
6. Tobacco, Farina, Sago, Tapioca.

Com. on Cor. and Supplies.	{	Miss COLLINS, Mrs. G. L. SCHUYLER, Mrs. R. M. BLATCHFORD, Dr. W. H. DRAPER, Mr. SAM'L. F. BRIDGHAM.
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We append also, the last circular of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—addressed to the Loyal Women of America—which will complete all the documentary evidence needed to put the public in full possession of the position and wants of the Woman's Central Association.

## TO THE LOYAL WOMEN OF AMERICA.

TREASURY BUILDING,  
WASHINGTON, October 1st, 1861.

### COUNTRYWOMEN :

You are called upon to help take care of our sick and wounded soldiers and sailors.

It is true that Government undertakes their care, but all experience, in every other country as well as our own, shows that Government alone cannot completely provide for the humane treatment of those for whom the duty of providing, as well as possible, is acknowledged. Even at this period of the war, and with a much smaller proportion of sick and wounded than is to be expected, there is much suffering, and dear lives are daily lost because Government cannot put the right thing in the right place at the right time. No other Government has ever provided as well for its soldiers, so soon after the breaking out of a war of this magnitude, and yet it remains true that there is much suffering, and that death unnecessarily occurs from the imperfectness of the Government arrangements. This is partly owing to the ignorance, partly to the indolence, and partly to the inhumanity and knavery of various agents of Government, as well as to the organic defects of the system. But humanity to the sick must, to a certain extent, be sacrificed, under Government, to the purpose of securing the utmost possible strength and efficiency to the military force.

Whatever aid is to be given from without, must still be administered systematically, and in perfect subordination to the general system of administration of the Government. To hold its agents in any degree responsible for the duties with which they are charged, Government must protect them from the interference of irresponsible persons.

Hence, an intermediate agency becomes necessary, which, without taking any of the duties of the regular agents of Government out of their hands, can, nevertheless, offer to them means of administering to the wants of the sick and wounded much beyond what could be obtained within the arbitrary limits of supply established by Government, and in strict accordance with the regulations necessary for maintaining a proper accountability to it.

The Sanitary Commission, a volunteer and unpaid bureau of the War Department of the Government, constitutes such an agency.



Under its present organization, every camp and military hospital, from the Atlantic to the Plains, is regularly and frequently visited, its wants ascertained, anticipated as far as possible, and whenever it is right, proper, and broadly merciful, supplied directly by the Commission to the extent of its ability. For the means of maintaining this organization, and of exercising, through it, a direct influence upon the officers and men favorably to a prudent guard against the dangers of disease to which they are subject, which is its first and principal object, the Commission is wholly dependent upon voluntary contributions to its treasury. For the means of administering to the needs of the sick and wounded, the Commission relies upon gift-offerings of their own handiwork from the loyal women of the land. It receives not one dollar from Government.

A large proportion of the gifts of the people to the army hitherto have been wasted, or worse than wasted, because directed without knowledge or discrimination. It is only through the Commission that such gifts can reach the army with a reasonable assurance that they will be received where they will do the most good and the least harm.

The Sanitary Commission has established its right to claim the confidence of the nation. The Secretary of War and Major General McClellan have both recently acknowledged, in the warmest terms, the advantages which have already resulted from its labors, and the discretion and skill with which they have been directed. Its advice has been freely taken, and in several important particulars, acted upon, favorably to the health of the army, by the Government. There has scarcely been a company of volunteers in the field, with regard to which some special defect, error, or negligence, endangering health, has not been pointed out by its agents, and its removal or abatement effected. There has not been a single instance in which its services, or advice offered through all its various agencies, have been repulsed; not a single complaint has been received of its embarrassing any officer in his duty, or of it interfering with discipline in the slightest degree. Its labors have, to this time, been chiefly directed to induce precautions against a certain class of diseases which have scourged almost every modern European army, which decimated our army in Mexico, and which, at one time, rendered nearly half of one of our armies in the war of 1812 unfit for service. It is a ground for national gratitude that our present armies have passed through the most trying season of the year wonderfully escaping this danger. That there are grander causes for this than the labors of the Commission cannot be doubted, but that, among human agencies, a large share of credit for it should be given to those labors, it is neither arrogant nor unreasonable to assert. In this assurance, what contribution that has hitherto been made to the treasury or the stores of the Commission is not received back again ten fold in value?

More than sixty thousand articles have been received by the Commission from their patriotic countrywomen. It is not known that one sent to them has failed to reach its destination, nor has one been received that cannot be accounted for. It is confidently believed that there has not been of late a single case of serious illness in the Army of the Potomac, nor wherever the organization of the Commission has been completely extended, in which some of these articles have not administered to the relief of suffering.

After full and confidential conference with the Secretary of War, the commander of the Army of the Potomac, and the Quartermaster General, there is reason to ask with urgency for a large increase of the resources of the Commission, especially



of that class of its resources upon which it must chiefly draw for the relief of the sick and wounded.

The experience of the Commission has so well acquainted it with the earnest desire of the women of the North to be allowed to work in the national cause, that it is deemed unnecessary to do more than announce that there is a real and immediate occasion for their best exertions, and to indicate convenient arrangements for the end in view.

It is, therefore, suggested that societies be at once formed in every neighborhood where they are not already established, and that existing societies of suitable organization, as Dorcas Societies, Sewing Societies, Reading Clubs, and Sociables, devote themselves, for a time, to the sacred service of their country; that energetic and respectable committees be appointed to call from house to house, and store to store, to obtain, contributions in materials suitable to be made up, or money for the purchase of such materials; that collections be made in churches, and schools, and factories, and shops, for the same purpose; that contribution boxes be placed in post-offices, newspaper offices, railroad and telegraph offices, public houses, steamboats and ferry boats, and in all other suitable places, labelled "FOR OUR SICK AND WOUNDED;" and that all loyal women meet at such convenient times and places as may be agreed upon in each neighborhood or social circle, to work upon the materials which shall be so procured.

Every woman in the country can, at the least, knit a pair of woollen stockings, or, if not, can purchase them. In each town let there be concert on this subject, taking care that three or four sizes are provided. Fix upon a place for receiving, and a date when a package shall be transmitted, and send it as soon as possible to the most convenient of the depots of the Commission.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES MOST WANTED.

Blankets for single beds;  
 Quilts, of cheap material, about seven feet long by fifty inches wide;  
 Knit Woollen Socks;  
 Woollen or Canton Flannel Bedgowns, Wrappers, Undershirts, and Drawers;  
 Small Hair and Feather Pillows and Cushions for wounded Limbs;  
 Slippers.

Delicacies for the sick—such as farina, arrowroot, cornstarch, cocoa, condensed milk, and nicely dried fruit—can be advantageously distributed by the Commission. Jellies should be carefully prepared to avoid fermentation, and most securely packed. Many articles of clothing have been injured, in packages heretofore sent the Commission, by the breaking of jars and bottles. Over every vessel containing jelly, strew white sugar to the depth of half an inch, and paste stout paper (not brandied) over the mouth. Jellies sent in stone bottles arrive in the best condition, and there is no difficulty in removing the contents for use. Every bottle, &c., containing jelly should be labelled. Aromatic spirits and waters; light easy chairs for convalescents; nicely made splints for wounded limbs; checker and backgammon boards, and like articles for the amusement of wounded men; books, for desultory reading, and magazines, especially if illustrated, will be useful.

All articles should be closely packed in wooden boxes, or in very strongly wrapped bales, and clearly directed. On the top of the contents of each box, under the cover, a list of what it contains should be placed: a duplicate of this

list should be sent by mail. Arrangements for free transportation should be made, or freight paid for in advance. (The express companies will generally convey goods for this purpose, at a reduction on the usual rates.) Packages may be directed and sent, as is most economical, from any point, to any of the addresses below—"For the U. S. Sanitary Commission:")

Office of the Woman's Central Relief Association, Cooper Union, No. 10 Third avenue, New York;

Care of Samuel and William Welsh, 218 South Delaware avenue, Philadelphia;

Care of Dr. S. G. Howe, 20 Bloomfield street, Boston;

Care of Dr. W. H. Mussey, Cincinnati;

Care of Dr. C. D. Griswold, Wheeling, Virginia;

Care of F. L. Olmsted, 211 F street, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledgments will be made to all those who forward parcels, and a final report to the Secretary of War will be published, recording the names of all contributors, so far as they shall be known to the Commission.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D., *President.*

Prof. A. D. BACHE, LL. D.,	Prof. WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,
GEORGE T. STRONG,	ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,
FRED. LAW OLMSTED,	SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.,
GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. A.,	CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,
ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. A.,	J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,
ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A.,	HORACE BINNEY, Jr.,
WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,	Rt. Rev. THOS. M. CLARK, D. D.,

*Commissioners under the authority of the Secretary of War.*

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, *General Secretary, Washington.*

A. J. BLOOR, *Assistant Secretary, Washington.*

J. FOSTER JENKINS, M. D., *Secretary for the Army of the Potomac.*

J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D., *Secretary for the Divisions under Gen. Banks, Gen. Dix, and Gen. Wool.*

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., *Secretary for the Western Armies.*

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The Sanitary Commission is doing a work of great humanity, and of direct practical value to the nation, in this time of its trial. It is entitled to the gratitude and confidence of the people, and I trust it will be generously supported. There is no agency through which voluntary offerings of patriotism can be more effectively made.

A. LINCOLN.

WINFIELD SCOTT,

WASHINGTON, September 30, 1861.

In order to make it perfectly easy in towns and villages where no association exists, to form a society to work for the benefit of the soldiers, in connection with the "Woman's Central Association of Relief," and the Sanitary Commission, we here furnish some plain directions.

1. Let the first woman whose heart is stirred with yearnings to do something in her own town, go to two or three of her neighbors and take counsel.

2. Let them agree on some convenient day and hour for a meeting of ladies, in the lecture-room of some place of worship, or in the town-house, or school-house.

3. Let notices of this be written, and carried to the pastors of all the churches in town, with a request that they be read, with comments by the pastor, in each society, at the close of service.

4. Let the ladies meet—select a President and Secretary; then let such portions of this pamphlet be read by the President as will serve to explain the nature and working of this Society.

5. Then let the ladies present form themselves into a Soldiers' Relief Circle, to meet once a week from 1 to 4 P. M.—the time to be spent in sewing or knitting for the soldier.

6. Let them, in addition to the President and Secretary already elected, choose a Treasurer and two committees—one on supplies and work, of three ladies, and one on correspondence, forwarding, and all other business, such as storing, engaging rooms, &c., of the same number.

7. The duty of the officers should be as follows:

I. The President—to call and preside at all meetings, and have a general charge of the interests of the Circle.

II. The Secretary—to enroll the names of the members (each lady simply pledging herself to give three hours per week, either in the meeting, or at home, to the service of the soldier)—to keep a record of the meetings—the amount of work done weekly—the number present, and their names—and to make a monthly report, to be read at the first meeting in each month.



III. The Treasurer—to keep all donations of money, collections in churches, or funds raised by other means, and disburse them at the order of the President, on vote of the Circle, and to make a monthly report of receipts and expenditures.

IV. The Committee on Supplies—to solicit donations, in kind from stores, farmers, and citizens in general, in yarn, wool, cotton cloth, and other articles, to be made up by the industry of the Circle; also, to determine the kind of work to be engaged in by the Circle, and to distribute it properly; to put out work to those willing to receive it at home, but unable to attend, and to see to its collection; to form, with the President's advice, plans of work, and endeavor to get the largest possible stock of goods against the monthly reckoning. This Committee, on the first meeting in each month, shall report a plan of work for that month, and report in full the results of the work of the last month.

V. The Committee on Correspondence, forwarding, storage—shall have for their duties, first, the custody, care, and storage; then, the packing and forwarding of the goods; and, finally, all the correspondence with the “Woman's Central Association of Relief,” either for instructions, counsel, sympathy, or business. They shall send a monthly letter, and, if possible, a monthly package, to the Woman's Central.

VI. The best methods of packing and directing are all found in the preceding address to the loyal women of America, and should be carefully followed.

With these simple hints, it is difficult to see how any patriotic village or hamlet will be without its Soldiers' Circle of Relief, and we hopefully anticipate an immediate increase in our supplies, from the general attention which we expect will be paid to the instructions and suggestions here given.

The most important point in this report remains: and that is, an expression of heartfelt gratitude toward the women of New York State especially, and toward all the generous and noble-hearted women everywhere who have responded to the call of the Woman's Central Association. None but those who



have opened the boxes and bundles transmitted to the office from the towns and villages of the country, can measure the patriotism, the tenderness, the depth of sympathy, sewed into the garments, done up in the packages, and lending fragrance to all the offerings of this womanly beneficence. We have been made better citizens, and happier and more hopeful Christians, by bending over these boxes freighted equally with labor, comfort, and love. We now return the gratitude not of our own hearts alone, but of the army itself, of sick and wounded soldiers, of dying men, of cold, shivering backs warmed by their care, to the generous souls who have supplied, and are continually recruiting our stores, with the work of their hands and the beating of their hearts.

The liberal donors of money in the city of New York to the treasury of the Woman's Central, deserve special thanks also. Their prompt support enabled the organization to start at once into vigorous existence, and the continuance of their favor is essential to its future success.

It is proper to add that professional gentlemen—whose time is so valuable—have given the association largely of their presence and aid, and special acknowledgments are due to Dr. W. H. Draper, for his counsel and energetic service, and to Dr. Mott, the venerable President, for an undeviating punctuality in attending, and a persistent kindness and skill in presiding at the meetings of the Woman's Central Association.

Present Officers of the *Woman's Central Association of Relief*:

*President*—VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.

*Secretary*—GEO. F. ALLEN.

*Treasurer*—HOWARD POTTER.

(Of the firm of *Brown, Brothers & Co.*, 59 Wall st.)

*Executive Committee.*

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.,  
VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.,  
Mrs. GEO. L. SCHUYLER,  
" R. M. BLATCHFORD,  
Miss COLLINS,  
WM. H. DRAPER, M. D.,  
SAML. F. BRIDGHAM,  
GEO. F. ALLEN.

*Registration Committee.*

E. BLACKWELL, M. D.,  
Mrs. W. P. GRIFFIN, Secretary,  
" H. BAYLIS,  
" J. A. SWETT,  
" V. BOTTA,  
" E. W. STOUGHTON,  
" J. ELLIOT THAYER,  
WM. A. MUHLENBERG, D. D.,  
ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.

*Finance Committee.*

HOWARD POTTER,  
JNO. S. GOURLIE,  
WM. HAGUE, D. D.,  
THOS. M. MARKOE, M. D.,

Mrs. HAMILTON FISH,  
" C. M. KIRKLAND,  
" CYRUS W. FIELD,  
ASA D. SMITH, D. D.



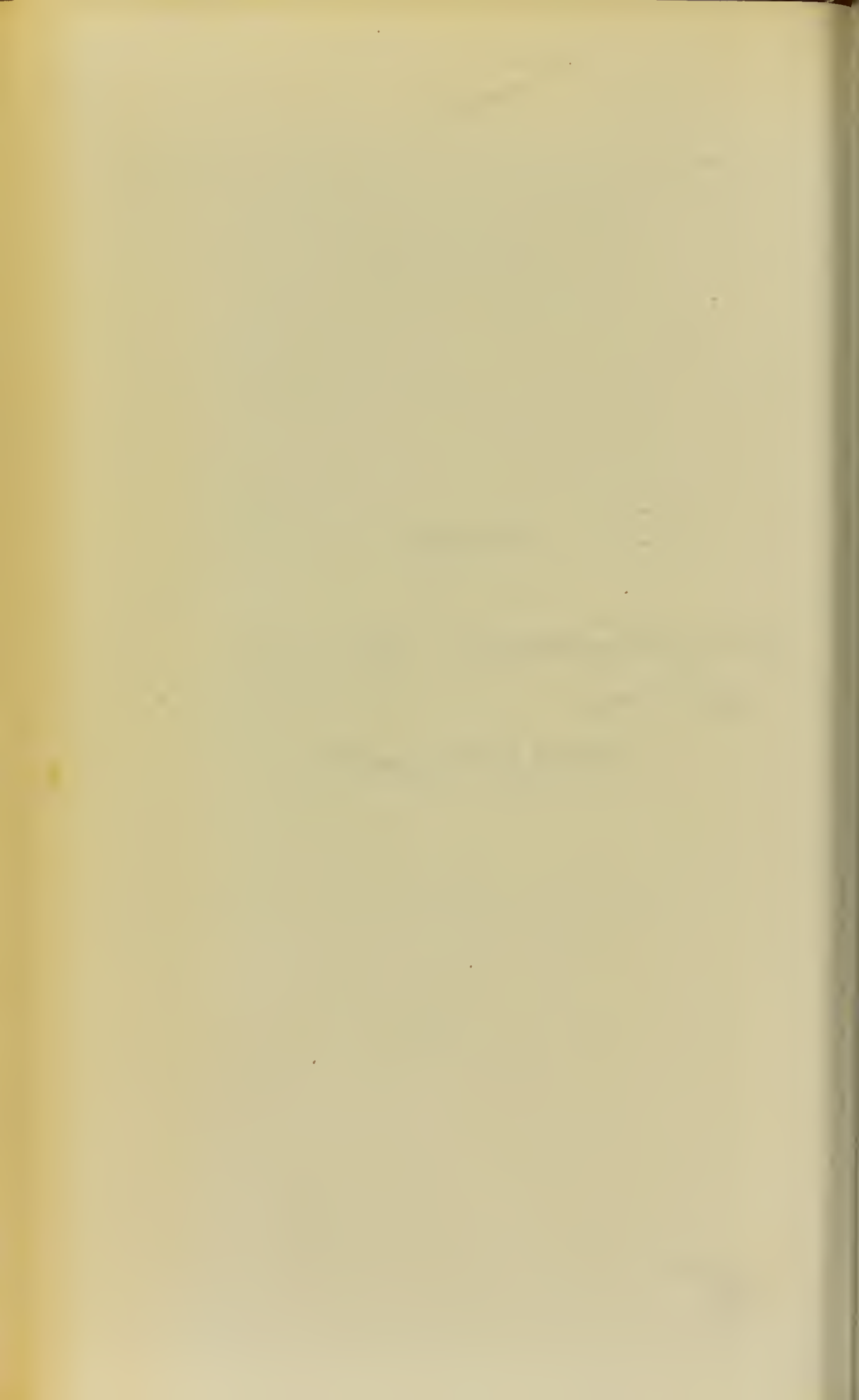
**No. 33.**

List of Associate Members. 16 pp.

(March 15, 1862.)

Included in Document 74.





**No. 34.**

List of Associate Members. 16 pp.

(Dec. 7, 1861.)

Included in Document 74.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 35.

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## TWO REPORTS

CONCERNING THE

Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission

TO

SICK SOLDIERS PASSING THROUGH WASHINGTON.

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BY FREDERICK N. KNAPP, Special Relief Agent.

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### FIRST REPORT.

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OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSION,  
*Treasury Building, September 23, 1861.*

TO FRED. LAW OLMSTED, ESQ.,

*Secretary of the Sanitary Commission :*

SIR—In answer to your request, I submit the following report, as Special Relief Agent of the Sanitary Commission :

The main purpose had in view in this agency has been to lessen the hardships to which the ignorance of the sick volunteers and their officers of the forms and methods of government make them subject while in the city of Washington, and to provide for certain wants of the volunteers, when detached from their regiments, for which the government arrangements had been inadequate, and which the regular inspectors of the Commission, in their visits to camps and hospitals, could not attend to.

Practically, the chief duty has been—

First. To supply to the sick men of the regiments arriving here such medicines, food, and care as it was impossible for them to receive, in the midst of the confusion, and with the lack of facilities, from their own officers.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care, and assistance to men discharged from the general hospitals, or



from their regiments, but who are often delayed for a number of days in the city before they obtain their papers and pay.

Third. To give assistance and information, and secure transportation to men who arrive at the station-house in small numbers, and want to find and join their regiments. Some of these are men accidentally left behind; some are men who have been detained by order for a few days at hospitals in Philadelphia or Baltimore.

The facilities for carrying out this aim of the Commission have been, until recently, very deficient. There was no fit place at the reception buildings where sick men could be made comfortable; no means near at hand for providing such food as was needed. Government did not recognize the necessity or fitness of such provision.

On August 9, General Mansfield issued an order, directing the officers in charge of the reception buildings to furnish all facilities in their power to members of the Sanitary Commission who wished to give comfort to the sick soldiers. But the facilities in their power were small, as, at that time, no cooking was permitted there; except hard bread, only uncooked rations were supplied; and there were no beds allowed in the building, as its object was simply for "reception of troops."

The most that we could do, therefore, was to have a place assigned us—part of the smaller building, the "Cane Factory"—where we put the sick as they came in, separate from the crowd of the other building; and here we had a pile of blankets, from which we made such beds as we could, and then brought tea and coffee and supplies for the men from the restaurant in the station-house, or, more often, from a boarding-house on Pennsylvania avenue.

When the regiments whose sick men we had charge of went to camp, they usually carried their sick with them, unless the men seemed too feeble to go; in which case we saw that the men were taken to a general hospital, or else we kept them in charge a few days longer, until the regimental hospital could be put into comfortable condition.

Sometimes the sick of a regiment just arrived occupied a separate passenger car, and remained in the car until the

regiment moved ; in that case we supplied them with tea and coffee and needed refreshments in the car.

Often the surgeon of the regiment had no medicine at hand for the sick, it being locked up in his chest, which could not be reached in the baggage car. In that case we obtained for him such medicines as immediate needs required.

When we found men from general or regimental hospitals waiting to get their discharge papers filled out, and for their pay, we took them in charge, sheltered and fed them, and if they needed help, we rendered it.

When we found men who were too weak to bear the fatigue of going with their papers, we took charge of the papers ourselves, had them filled up, obtained the signature of the men to blank receipts for money due to them by government, and thus, by consent of the paymaster, received the money, and paid it over to the men. This privilege could only be granted in cases of absolute necessity.

When we found men seeking their regiments, we directed them (from a record of the location of the various regiments, kindly furnished us by General Williams;) if they needed money, we gave it to them ; if they were weak, obtained an order for an ambulance, or an army wagon, or a railroad pass, by which they were sent to their respective stations.

In many cases, men who were discharged left their regimental hospitals sadly in need of clean garments, especially shirts, stockings, and drawers. In such cases, before they started for home, we made the men clean and comfortable.

When we found men at the reception buildings in need of medical treatment, but not sick enough to be sent to the general hospital, we called in a physician, unless their own surgeon could be obtained.

As a general rule, we were each day at the station—early in the morning, late in the evening, and at mid-day, and whenever the arrival of a regiment was expected.

The men in charge of the reception buildings, and of the rations, and those who had in charge the locating the newly-arrived regiments, were kind, attentive, and ready to co-operate with us, so far as it was in their power, and in accordance with their instructions.

About the 20th of August, government ordered cooked rations (cold meats and bread and hot coffee) to be ready for the regiments on their arrival at the station. This afforded some relief to men who were well, but did not furnish the food needed by the sick, leaving to us still most of our work to do.

On Friday evening, August 30th, the provost marshal visited the reception buildings, and issued orders that no men going or coming be allowed to remain in the buildings longer than six hours, as the buildings were for the reception of troops, not for hospital purposes. This obliged us to provide immediately some other place where we could take such soldiers as, from the necessities of the cases, required more than six hours of shelter or care.

We fortunately obtained part of a house near the station, on Capitol Hill, (the second house from the railroad, on the street running from the rear of the station to the Capitol,) and on Saturday night it was furnished with beds and all conveniences for the accomodation of thirty to forty men; and that night there were twenty-one invalid soldiers resting there.

The rooms of this house are large and high, and are well ventilated. One room is 19 by 33 feet, and 10 feet high; the other room 19 by 33 feet, and 13 feet high; each room with four windows opening to the floor. There is a broad piazza to each room. There is a front entrance independent of the rest of the house, and stairs have been built from the rear window down to the out-buildings beyond. It is hired by the month at a reasonable rent; and an arrangement has been made with the woman who lives in the house—a most judicious, worthy, and kindly person—to take care of the rooms, and to furnish such board and general supplies to the men as we may order; also to furnish all additional care to those who may require it. We have a store-room there, with such clothing and comforts as may be demanded. An arrangement has been made with Dr. Grymes, an experienced physician living near by, to be at the house every morning and evening, and prescribe for such men as require treatment. Rules in regard to neatness, behavior, &c., have been prepared, to which the men received there are obliged to conform.



Our own store-room furnished much of what was needed to fit up the rooms.

Some of the men taken to this house require only the shelter and beds for the night, and then in the morning take their rations with their regiment at the reception buildings. Others, more seriously sick, or just out of hospitals, need to remain and be cared for longer.

It is not the plan to consider this, in any sense, a *hospital*, but only as a place where the weak can rest and be cared for, and the sick remain awhile until they are otherwise provided for; and also where those returning home, who have no claim upon hospital or camp or station-house, may be sheltered if obliged to remain near the station more than six hours. Therefore, as a general thing, men will remain in the house but one, two, or three days at any given time. We call the place "The Soldiers' Home."

I will note down in brief some points from the journal which I have kept.

Friday, Aug. 9th. Go early to the station-house. Find in a passenger car 36 sick men of an Indiana regiment, which had arrived in the night; found the car hot and very dirty, of necessity; water closet beyond use or endurance; one surgeon is absent up town for medicine, (medicine chest is under baggage,) the other surgeon has gone to get leave to take to the hospital some of the sick. The men had eaten nothing for 24 hours, except hard bread and water; nothing else could be obtained.

As the first work, I employed a black man to reduce the water-closet to a sanitary state, and some other parts of the car likewise; then got at a boarding-house two pails full of tea, and a half bushel of bread and butter, for distribution, with some other little comforts for those most sick. These men were left in the car from no neglect, but because the reception buildings were too much crowded for the sick to be put there. In about an hour the surgeons returned; they were attentive to the men, and seemed grateful for our kindness to them; they desired themselves to have provided for the comfort of their sick, but did not know which way to turn. Soon the army wagons and ambulances took the



sick men to join in the move toward an encampment. But the poor fellows were fed.

Saturday, Aug. 10th. After visiting the newly-arrived regiments, and giving some comforts to the sick, I found around the station-house on New Jersey avenue thirty-six men of a regiment who had dropped out of the ranks the afternoon before, as they moved from below Alexandria to Bladensburg. It had been an intensely hot afternoon, and the march was evidently forced, (some of the officers were mounted.) I found upon inquiry that one man dropped out beyond the Long Bridge, and was left in charge of two comrades, (he died that night,) and the others fell out all along through the streets; no officer was detailed at the time to collect these men, or to care for them. Knowing that Bladensburg was somewhere on the railroad, the stragglers had all found their way during the evening to the station-house. They had eaten nothing since Friday noon, and were many of them quite exhausted. I brought them such supplies as I could—bread enough, at least. One man I found apparently asleep, lying on the brick sidewalk in the hot sun with the others; but upon trying to arouse him, as his companions said he was very sick, I found he was entirely unconscious. A physician was called in, and after a half hour the man was restored to consciousness. From Dr. McLaren I obtained an order to send the sick men to the general hospital; from Gen. Mansfield an order to pass the other men to Bladensburg on the cars. Meantime, however, an officer of the regiment came to the station-house and marched twenty of the men to the camp. The others were left; they were too weak to march; and at 5½ o'clock they were sent by cars. During this time no surgeon of the regiment had informed himself of the condition of these men. The man sent to the hospital was in a very weak state for a number of days; except for timely aid, he, too, would doubtless have died.

Aug. 11th, a. m. Furnish tea and food to 10 or 12 men who arrived in the night, and remained in the ambulances on the freight cars. They were otherwise well cared for, but needed more than hard bread and water. Also "gave

comfort'' to the sick—some 15 or 20 of them—of another regiment, who spent the previous night in the Cane Factory. At 6½ or 7 p. m., a Pennsylvania regiment arrived in the train. The regiment marched into quarters upon the avenue, leaving their sick to spend the night in the baggage cars. We took them into the building, and gave them supper, shelter, and in the morning a breakfast. There were of these, sixteen men and six women. Three of the men were so sick that in the morning they were carried to the general hospital.

Aug. 12th. Look after these Pennsylvania men, and a few others.

P. M., at 6½ o'clock; thirty men arrive, belonging to the Wisconsin 5th, in charge of a sergeant. He left them immediately to go to headquarters to get wagons to transport them to their camp. They were men sent on from the hospital at Baltimore. They had no provision for supper. We supplied them, and at about 9½ they were packed into the wagons which had arrived. Had I seen the sergeant beforehand, he would gladly have let them rest for the night in the reception house. Meantime, at about 8 o'clock, thirteen men and one woman, of the Wisconsin 6th, arrive from Baltimore hospital, without any one in charge of them. They had been merely told to go to Washington and join their regiment. We gave them supper, made them comfortable for the night, and after breakfast they were taken to their encampment.

I will turn now merely to the record of the few last days, though meantime we were enabled in various ways, by furnishing shelter, or food, or fresh clothes, to give comfort to many.

Aug. 28th. Eighteen men arrive at station house, from a Massachusetts regiment, to go home discharged; but there is some defect in their papers. The surgeon, who has care of the men, is obliged to go up the river twenty-eight miles, where the regiment is in camp, and he is grateful to us for taking the men under our charge until his return. Those who are well enough have eaten army rations (provided them, by order of Capt. Beckwith, abundantly) at the

reception-house ; those more unwell have been furnished by us with comforts. They were here, in need of care, from Wednesday noon until Monday afternoon. And when they left, they were very grateful.

On Sunday night, Sept. 2d, we had in the new Home eighteen Massachusetts men, and ten sick men of the Tammany regiment, who were delayed here two days through some defects in their papers of discharge. There were also three other sick men, who came with a Pennsylvania regiment on Saturday, and one Maine man, who came from the hospital at Annapolis with the surgeon's certificate of inability, but was too much exhausted by the journey to go over to Alexandria, where his regiment was located, to get his papers made out. He is resting here.

Monday night, Sept. 3d, there were 18 in the house; the Massachusetts men having left, and four new men having come in; the Tammany men still remaining.

Sept. 9th. Thirty men arrive at the station-house from Annapolis hospital; some of them to join their regiments, some to be discharged. They receive from Captain Allen passes, so that they need not be arrested as they go through the city to report themselves at headquarters; but they have not a cent of money, and its a long walk—a mile or more—for sick men to take; and they must carry their knapsacks, too. Therefore I furnish to each man money enough to pay his omnibus fare up there and back again, so that he can return for the night to the Home if he is delayed. Some ten or fifteen of these men returned; their regiments were too far off to be reached that night.

The next day, (September 10th,) a number more—some twenty men—arrived from Annapolis Hospital; we gave aid to these as to the others, receiving some of them for the night. It is a little thing thus to give to a man enough to pay an omnibus fare, and to buy a meal; but when that little aid is given to each one of fifty or a hundred weary men each week, the aggregate of fatigue and anxiety which is relieved is not small in its sum; and I am sure that if the friends at home could purchase it at ten-fold its cost for those who are weary by the way, they would consider it cheaply bought.



Sept. 11th. There were last night in the "Soldiers' Home," as we now call it, twenty-five men resting. Among them were a number of Berdan's sharpshooters; none of them were sick enough to go to a hospital, but some of them will doubtless be saved from serious illness by two or three days of rest and care. These men represent a large class of soldiers now arriving, who come in companies of fifties or hundreds, not yet organized into regiments, and therefore having no surgeon with them. To such we feel that we can render especial service.

Sept. 12th. A number discharged from a Maine regiment, but who arrived in the city too late to get their pay, after wandering about for some time found their way to the Home. They were without shelter and without money, for they had expected to arrive from their camp in Virginia in season to receive the money due to them, and start for home in the evening train. At first these men seemed unwilling to accept what they thought was charity; but I assured them that we were only supplying to them some of the very comforts which their own friends, perhaps, in Maine had sent on "for the soldiers," (for Maine has not been unmindful of the call made upon her.) I fancied that they rested better that night for the assurance; they did not feel so far away from home.

Sept. 13th. Last night we sheltered thirty-eight men, and furnished fresh clothes to some who were sorely in need. Among those to whom we gave comfort was one man whose earnest tone peculiarly impressed me; so I note the particulars. When I went to the reception-house in the evening I found there this man who looked tired and worn. I asked him if he was one of the men to be discharged. He said no, but that he had walked over twenty miles, and had hurried most of the way. Some two weeks ago, he received the news of his mother's death and his father's sickness, but he could not obtain leave of absence; yesterday it was telegraphed to him that his father had died; he now obtained a furlough for six days; but he had twenty-two miles to walk before he could reach the cars; he started early, but arrived here a half hour too late for the train, and consequently would not



be in Philadelphia in time for the funeral of his father. His wife was not living, but he had a little girl, three years old, in aid of whose support the city of Philadelphia paid fifty cents per week. He showed to me some of his letters from what was once his home. Realizing, as I thought, in my own heart, the sad loneliness and weariness and disappointment which I knew he must experience, I said to him, Now tell me honestly, for I want to know, just how a man feels when he is situated as you are; do you not wish you had never enlisted, and so were not obliged to start for camp again in three days after you reach your child? He answered, "No, sir; you can't make me say that. I enlisted because I loved my country, and I was determined to fight for her, and if every friend I have got in the world dies while I am away, I will not wish I had staid at home." This man had borrowed of his captain barely money enough to pay his railroad fare both ways. I added something to this, but he was unwilling to take it till I told him it was for his little girl.

Sept. 15. Last night there were only twelve men in the Home. But early this morning we received sixteen men from a Michigan regiment, which arrived in the night. None of these, excepting four who were sent to the general hospital to-day, were very sick; but with slight illness at first, they were entirely worn down and prostrated by the fatigue of a long journey, without rest, from Michigan. Just at this point of time, a day and night of sleep, and some little care, will probably save them from a serious illness. Tuesday or Wednesday their regimental hospital will be ready, and they will then go there.

Sept. 16. Although four thousand troops have arrived in the last 24 hours, there were but four sick men among them, except those of the Michigan regiment. The other regiments were from New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island. The inspection of troops, previous to their enlisting, is evidently more thorough than with the earlier regiments.

Just before night I met ten of the Garibaldians, who arrived in the city too late to get their pay. They are from the regimental hospital—sick and discharged. I told them how to find their way to the Home; and, after a comfortable supper, they are now resting.

Sept. 17. Last night there were forty-five men in the Home, more than half of them needing medical treatment. This morning one poor fellow left, who has been here anxiously waiting ten days for his papers, which had been sent to Poolesville to have a correction made in them. He is very sick with consumption, and every day of his unnecessary delay seemed a wrong to him.

Sept. 18. This morning all but twelve men left for their regiments, or for home; to-night thirty more of the sick came in from the four regiments that arrived. This afternoon I went to a regiment over the river, and obtained from a captain twenty dollars, which he had wrongfully or carelessly charged to a young man when his papers were made out. Three other cases similar to this have previously claimed our attention.

From the 19th until the present time our chief attention has been given to the newly-arrived regiments—some seventeen regiments having come in during the five days. The number in the Home the past week has been from forty-five to fifty each night. Meantime, some men have been sent to us from regiments already in camp, but who were not provided with hospital tents. Most of these we transferred to the general hospital.

The number of soldiers who have thus received care at the hands of the Commission (some more, some less; some a single night's lodging; some five or six days' shelter and support) is not far from seven hundred. This covers the time from August 9th to September 23d.

In this connection, it may be proper to say that these facts give increasing evidence of what a vast amount of delay, and consequent fatigue and anxiety, would be saved the soldiers who are sick and discharged, if the officers, whose duty it is in the various regiments to make out the discharge papers, could be led to feel the importance of making themselves thoroughly acquainted with all the forms required, and then would carefully regard them. Humanity, as well as official faithfulness, demands this. The paymaster, of course, is not authorized to give a man his money upon a discharge that has a single flaw in it; so the man has to go back to the

regiment again with his papers, and the delay is certainly a wrong to the sick man, who thought he had fairly started for home.

I may also state that there is now established by government a much more perfect system for sending to their respective regiments the soldiers who arrive without officers.

Allow me, likewise, to add, that in this formal report no record is made of what, after all, is one of the most valuable and most grateful methods by which "aid and comfort" are given to these soldiers, namely, by the expression of the sympathy which they receive at our hands, by the word of good cheer, by the assurance that some one is waiting to help them on. And this has a tenfold value to them when they receive it, not as from one individual, but as from a thousand hands reached out from a thousand hearts, that bear with them constantly the thought of helping and strengthening our soldiers who have left their homes.

In conclusion, I would say, that we hope to accomplish still more good, and render aid and comfort still more effectually, as by degrees system and methods for greater efficiency are worked out. In an undertaking of this kind, one cannot mark down a plan of operations so much as follow the lead of circumstances.

Respectfully,

FRED'K N. KNAPP,

*Special Relief Agent of Sanitary Commission.*



## SECOND REPORT.

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WASHINGTON, *October 21, 1861.*

TO FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Secretary of Sanitary Commission:*

SIR—My first report bore date of September 10th. After it was approved and ordered to be made a document of the Commission, some delay occurred in printing, enabling me to bring the report down to September 23d, which, with the approval of the Secretary, was done, so far as the additional details were of general interest; and they are now presented to you, in printed form, in connection with the first official report. Other matters of expense and methods, embraced in that time, will be connected with the present statements.

Up to September 10th, the number of soldiers who had received aid and comfort at the hands of the Commission, as previously stated, was about 300; from September 10th to September 23d, the number was about 400; from September 23d to the present time, the number has been 1,094. Total from September 10th to the present date, 1,494.

The men who have been relieved were mostly of the same classes as those indicated in the first report, viz.: the sick of newly-arrived regiments; men returning from hospitals at Annapolis or Baltimore; men waiting for their discharge papers or their pay; men who had received their discharge papers, but needed a day or two of rest before starting for home.

To all of these shelter, or food, or medical treatment, or direction, or money were given, according to the needs of each case. And as before, so now, fresh clothes were furnished to a number who otherwise would have carried one of the worst marks of the war home with them.

Besides these men, however, at the time when the troops were pouring in so rapidly, we received from day to day a number of soldiers brought to us from the regiments already in camp near by. These regiments, in the unusual demand for supplies, were not furnished with hospital tents, and the



general hospitals were too much crowded, or the men not sick enough, to make it desirable to have them sent there. With these men in the house, the Home assumed, for a week or two, essentially the character of a hospital.

But besides these, again, within the past three weeks, we have had a new class, viz.: men belonging to regiments moving from Washington to Annapolis for special service. A number of cases have occurred where the regiments have struck their tents and marched to the railroad station, bringing all their sick with them in ambulances, expecting to take the cars at once; but they were detained there waiting sometimes for 24 hours. In all such cases we have immediately received the sick into the Home; and there they remained until the train which was to take them was ready to start. Some nights we have had as many as twenty such from one regiment, who otherwise (though just removed from a regimental hospital) would have been obliged to have slept on the floor of the reception-house, or else in the army wagons and ambulances. Many of these were men who needed all the care we could give them.

One night, October 9th, as I came out of the house, there were four army wagons drawn up in a line in front of the Home, waiting the word to carry men (38 in number) to the cars, which were to start for Annapolis; and there I found the wagons standing the next morning, and the regiment did not get under way until the following afternoon; but during all this time these 38 men were receiving assurance that the Sanitary Commission kindly provided for the sick soldiers.

Last Saturday night we found at the reception-house about forty women and children, (22 women and 19 children,) belonging to the seven companies of regulars who had just arrived from Utah Territory. They were much worn with their two months' journey. None of the little children were over six years old. We brought them all up to the Home, giving them the large rooms on the second floor to themselves. It was a new sight to see so many little children there, but it was a pleasant one; and it was right, too; for by giving thus for the time some of the protection of a home to these wives and children, I am sure we gave the very

best "aid and comfort" to those weary men at the reception-house. Most of the women and children remained here until yesterday. We regretted that we had not still greater facilities for rendering them comfortable, but such as we had we gladly gave to them.

Dr. Grymes, the physician to the Home, in his report, dated October 10th, says:

"I have professionally treated over 400 soldiers since the opening of the house—some of them very sick. I have sent 36 to the general hospitals from the Home, and others from the Depot. I have given medicine to many who were directed to call here for advice. I have furnished medicines to various regimental surgeons arriving at the station-house; and, whenever the opportunity has occurred, have conversed and advised with them upon the prevailing diseases of our section of the country; and I have informed them what disposition they could make of their sick."

The largest number in the house at any one time has been 91, the smallest number, 13. On many nights in succession the number has exceeded 50.

An accurate record has been kept of the names of all received at the Home, with the dates of their arrival and their leaving, excepting where men were brought in merely to lodge for a night. In that case the number of men thus sheltered was put down.

The cost of boarding these men during this time, included in this report, according to the bills herewith transmitted, has been about \$900.

We now have the use of the whole house, of which we previously occupied but part. The rent is paid by Government. We are now also allowed to draw rations for all the men received at the Home. This new arrangement has been made about two weeks. Mrs. Murry, the woman who before kept the house, a very faithful, kindly, and experienced person, is now employed in the same service for the Commission.

Mr. J. Boylston Clark, an unpaid assistant, during the last few weeks has rendered me much help, and kindly offers to continue the work so long as he is needed. He is a man of judgment and efficiency.

The surgeon, Dr. Grymes, has been devoted in his attention to the sick men received at the Home. He has been there at all hours of the day and night; he is kind in manner, judicious in his practice, and never impatient or weary.

The existence of the Home and its services are becoming generally known. We now frequently have men, on their way home, sent directly to our care from their regiments.

A number of letters of grateful thanks have been received from men who had arrived at their own homes after resting at this Home on the way.

Water for a bath-room has not yet been introduced into the building. Certain difficulties were in the way which, we think, have now been overcome, and an order will probably be issued soon by Government to have the water brought in.

In this connection, it may be well to state that the agent of the Sanitary Commission, from time to time, has made a report to the officer in charge of changes and repairs needed at and around the reception-house, and the house where rations are served; and the suggestions have always been received and acted upon.

There is a room in a small new building near the station-house where men who are sick with measles are placed if they arrive in the night, or cannot be immediately sent to the general hospital. To this room, tea and necessary supplies are sent from the Home.

All the men connected with the reception-buildings have been uniformly ready to coöperate with us, and they have frequently brought the sick men from the station-house to the Home.

Among the 1,800 men received at the Home, there has not been a single case where rudeness or disrespect has been shown, but uniformly thoughtfulness and expressions of gratitude.

With reference to the diseases of the men who, from time to time, come under our care, I should say that at least three-quarters of the discharged men, composing one-third of the whole whom we receive, are persons who, according to their own testimony, were more or less diseased before they left their homes, and who would never have been allowed to



enlist except for the culpable carelessness of the medical officers who inspected these same men before their enlistment. I have taken special care to inform myself upon this point, so far as I could from the opportunity afforded me of talking with three or four hundred discharged men. At one time we had nineteen discharged men from one regiment, and it was their united testimony that "the surgeon who examined them as recruits passed them off at the rate of a company of ninety men in an hour." The attention of public officials who have this matter in charge ought surely to be drawn to these facts. By such carelessness private homes suffer, the public service suffers, and the good name of the army, as a place where the health of the soldier is cared for, suffers. It is a wrong all round.

With reference to other men who come under our care—not discharged, but belonging to newly-arrived regiments—I should say that one-half of these are men who ought never to have been allowed to enlist, while the other half is made up chiefly of men who though ill when the regiment was called upon to move, could not bear to be left behind, and therefore undertook a journey which was too severe for them. But such men usually are ready for service after a few days' rest.

There are but few persons who come into our hands affected with contagious or infectious disorders, or threatened with protracted sickness of the severer types of disease; but when any such arrive they are immediately placed under the better care which they receive at the general hospitals.

There is one other point which, although not strictly connected with sanitary affairs, seems to me worthy of mention. Among these thousand and more of sick men whom we have had in charge, I have met scarcely one whose anxiety for renewed health did not seem actually to centre chiefly upon this idea, namely, to have strength enough to fight for his country. Hundreds of those men go home with a feeling of bitter disappointment, to think that they can never strike that blow in their country's cause for which their arm and heart both were once so strong, while now the arm is palsied. I am more and more impressed not merely



with the patience of these men, but with their deep-seated spirit of patriotism. I am convinced that many persons in the community attribute to a mere love of excitement and to the attractiveness of a military life what ought to be credited to a genuine, earnest purpose. I have had peculiar opportunity here to get at the real feelings of a great many of these men, and I see more and more how strong and real a current of life flows down southward from our northern hills. Again and again have I wished that all doubting or luke-warm patriots could witness some of these scenes, which, to my eye, have so much real pathos in them—men returning to their friends and their homes simply to die, yet without a complaint or regret, except that they were too weak to bear arms. Even those men who were prisoners at Richmond, but who have now been allowed to return, (as they are maimed for life, nearly every one having lost a limb,) even these men utter no complaints. There have been ten of them with us the past two weeks, getting their papers of discharge and of pension, yet I have not heard a murmur from one. It has seemed to me right, in my report, to give this measure of testimony.

I will append to this report one letter of many, which, although addressed to me personally, belongs to the Commission and to the public, whose charities I am allowed to bestow. The letter is printed just as it was received:

“Sept. the 29—61

“DEAR SIR, on account of a feeling of gratitude towards you I sit down to write a few lines to you—to let you know that my Son arrived home on the 24th in very feeble health, about the same as when he left your House—& still remains as weak with very bad Cough—when I heard him tell of the kind treatment he received from you an entire Stranger and the kindness you showed him, and the things you gave him—I could not refrain from shedding tears of Gratitude. I feel as though he found a friend in need which is a friend in deed.

“I feel as though Heaven would Reward you for your kindness—it would be a pleasure to me to see such a good Soul—as it is not money you want after I beg you to accept our sincere

thanks and may God bless you—if we never meet on Earth  
may God prepair me to meet you in Heaven

“Yours truly this from your obedient Servant”

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“P S my son will write you Soon if able Excuse my poor  
ignorant letter”

Did circumstances call for it, I could add many similar  
assurances of gratitude, which come from humble homes,  
indeed, but from wives and parents who appreciate kindness  
bestowed upon husbands and sons.

Respectfully,

FRED'K N. KNAPP,  
*Special Relief Agent of Sanitary Commission.*



# SANITARY COMMISSION

No. 36.

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## R E P O R T

ON THE

## CONDITION OF THE TROOPS

AND THE

Operations of the Sanitary Commission

IN THE

VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

FOR THE

THREE MONTHS ENDING NOV. 30, 1861.

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By J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., Associate Sec'y.

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SINCE the publication of my former report, the aspects of our field of labor in the Valley of the Mississippi have materially changed. The number of enlisted men in camp and field in that area now reaches the large figure of 250,000. As a natural consequence, the investigation into the sanitary condition of this immense force, and the effort to supply the wants from which they have suffered, have drawn largely upon my energies and the material means at my command. I am happy to be able to state that such drafts have but rarely been protested; no considerable number of troops, for whose health and comfort I have been in any degree responsible, have been wholly neglected; nor has any appeal for assistance in any case been refused, nor waited long for a full and satisfactory response. To accomplish this task my own labor has been necessarily somewhat severe; I have been compelled to travel over ten thousand miles in the service of the Commission, and in my brief intervals of rest have been burdened with a large and constantly increasing correspondence. To do in a manner at all satisfactory the sanitary work which has been crowding upon the Commission in the Western States, it has seemed indispensable to increase our corps of agents; I have, therefore, employed two additional inspectors, who have occupied themselves with investigating and supplying the wants of the



troops now rapidly gathering in Kentucky; and have established and brought into successful operation a depot of supplies in Western Virginia. I have also the pleasure of acknowledging my indebtedness to the earnest, systematic, and most efficient aid of a large number of our associate members, and of auxiliary Ladies' Aid Societies, without whose assistance but a small portion of the work done could have been accomplished. Our acknowledgments are also due to the railroad, steamboat, and express lines, who have, with few exceptions, generously offered to transport supplies free, or at greatly diminished rates. In some instances, also, they have granted free passes to our agents, and have thus spared us a heavy drain upon our limited pecuniary resources. Through all these agencies a system of sanitary measures has been inaugurated, which has already prevented and alleviated much suffering, and, it is not too much to say, has saved many lives; a system which promises in the future to add greatly to the health, comfort, and efficiency of our troops, and thus to accomplish, to a good degree, the objects for which the Commission was organized.

The details of what has been done and what remains to do for the welfare of the soldier in the different divisions of our Western army, will be given under the different heads where the condition and wants of the troops in the several departments are specifically noted; but a few facts in regard to the general condition of the troops in the Valley of the Mississippi, and the causes which have had a general bearing on their health and comfort, deserve to be first mentioned.

On comparing the condition of the troops which have come under my observation, with that observed at the time of making my former report, it may be stated that, while exhibiting in many respects a different phase, their average health has on the whole not materially changed. With the advance of the season, and their experience in camp life, important modifications have taken place in the diseases from which they have suffered. The diarrhœa, at one time so prevalent in all the camps, and the various effects of malarious poison which gave a distinct phase to the nosology of our armies early in the season, have diminished in a marked degree; while with the approach of the colder weather of autumn, the cases of typhoid fever, perhaps no more numerous, have become more grave; measles and small-pox, which for a time had somewhat abated their virulence, are now more frequent and severe; and rheumatism has assumed an important place in the list of diseases with which our troops are affected. On the whole, the percentage of sick is but little greater than during the summer, yet I think it will be found to hold good, as a general rule, that the mortality has sensibly increased. This is doubt-

less due to the combined operation of several causes. The multitudinous cases of trivial diseases, occurring among all newly-enlisted men, and incidental to the change from civil to military life, no longer swell the sick list and fill the hospitals; and the more frequent, but less severe forms of malarious disease—ague and chill fever—have been succeeded by the rarer, but more grave, malarious dysenteries and bilious remittent fevers; while the eruptive diseases, as they are so prone to do, have multiplied in number and increased in virulence with the approach of cold weather. This increase in the number of cases of grave and fatal diseases among troops now more experienced in camp life, better equipped than at first, subject at least to partial sanitary inspection and instruction, and in the enjoyment of a large and liberal bounty from the Sanitary Commission and a generous public, by which their comfort and, as a consequence, their health, have been without question greatly increased, will perhaps excite surprise and concern in many minds; and the question will naturally arise: Why is it? Doubtless a portion of the prevalent sickness and mortality are due to natural and inevitable causes, incident to the change of season, and affecting alike those enjoying the comforts of home and those exposed to the hardships of camps; there can be no question, however, that a very large number of the cases of death and grave disease in our Western armies are due to removable causes; which should therefore become matters of anxious concern and earnest, immediate effort.

In this category of causes I would include unnecessary exposure to wet and cold. The consequences following such exposure have been mainly entailed by insufficient protection against the inclemencies of the weather, such as defective tents, blankets too few and of inferior quality, uniforms of too light material, overcoats wholly wanting or far too pervious to both cold and rain. And here I may be permitted to remark, that I cannot but anticipate the gravest consequences from the inadequacy of the protection afforded by their clothing and bedding, such and so much as now furnished to troops soon to encounter all the severities of our Arctic winter. It is my earnest conviction that few of our volunteers will be so located as to geographical position, or so protected in winter quarters, as to escape great suffering and serious disease, while guarded from the effects of cold only by their uniforms and a single blanket each. If it be determined that military necessity limits the transportation, and therefore restricts the bedding and clothing of the soldier to the present regulation standard, it is none the less a *sad* necessity, from which the gravest evils must follow. I am confident that few of our troops can endure the rigors of a winter campaign with less than at least two good

blankets each, and a more liberal supply of winter underclothing, socks, and mittens, than even the most favored now enjoy. And I cannot but believe that the humane, the wise and prudent, both among army officers and civilians, will strain every nerve to secure to our soldiers as nearly an adequate protection against this great and impending evil as the circumstances of the case will possibly permit.

It must be borne in mind in this connection that all efforts to compensate the soldier for inadequate clothing and bedding, by raising the temperature in barracks or tents by stoves, or by carefully preventing the ingress or egress of air, will be a fruitful cause of the gravest forms of disease incident to camp life, and will be productive of even greater evils than excessive cold.

The truth of this statement is so apparent as scarcely to require an argument; a highly-heated sleeping apartment, exposing the occupants to all the many and most serious consequences of great and sudden alternations of temperature; while in closely-shut quarters, the men are deprived of the "breath of life," and are poisoned by their own exhalations.

I should, perhaps, mention here that the troops now in service in the Valley of the Mississippi are, with few exceptions, provided with uniforms, overcoats, and blankets of fair quality, though few come up to the regulation standard in point of weight and durability of material. The exceptions to which I have referred are regiments which, at the date of December 1st, were not yet supplied with overcoats, or which had only very inferior blankets. The instances of this kind which have come under my observation, or have been reported by our inspectors, are fortunately few; but few as they are, they exhibit such incompetence or inhumanity on the part of those in authority as should make them the objects of universal execration.

Some of the regiments in my field of operation have been provided with the India rubber overcoat, but I believe it has added little to the comfort of the soldier, and has been generally condemned. The India rubber blanket, on the other hand, has been as generally approved.

Passing over the evils consequent upon the neglect or incompetence of officers—unfortunately not unknown, nor unfrequent in any division of any army—I am compelled to speak of the forced marches made by some of our troops in the West as a most fruitful source of disease, and one of the most potent influences which have operated to increase the percentage of sickness and mortality, to which I have already referred as a matter of grave concern. Without raising the question of military necessity, the obvious consequence of such severe and unusual duty



cannot be ignored; and I think I am safe in saying that the disproportionate number of sick reported in the Valley of the Kanawha—173 to a regiment—and the still greater percentage in Eastern Kentucky, are the legitimate and necessary consequence of the hardships incident to the forced marches made by the divisions in these districts.

I cannot refrain from also enumerating among the causes generally affecting the health and efficiency of the troops, the unfortunate relation which exists between the sutlers and men in many regiments, by which they are not only permitted, but often induced, to expend their earnings for food and drinks in such a way as to injure both health and morals. It would seem that there was a call for more stringent measures prohibiting the sale in camp of articles destructive to health or productive of demoralization. I have failed to perceive any good reason why the sutler should be permitted to collect his dues at the pay table; or why, unless more rigidly restricted in his functions, he should be protected from competition, and be raised above the common chances of trade.

#### GENERAL CONDITION OF THE HOSPITALS.

The character and condition of the hospitals in which the sick of the Western armies are treated, are fully given in the reports which follow. I may say, however, in passing, that hospital service in the West has assumed a new aspect since the presentation of my last report. Then the general hospital was almost unknown, and the regimental hospital—usually constructed of boards, small, open, and airy, free from infection and uncontaminated by the emanations from the kitchen or privy, impending in no respect the curative influences of nature's agents—left little to be desired as regards a habitation for the sick. As a consequence, the wards of no model hospital in the world could afford a more favorable exhibition of those cases of disease prone to become grave where a confined and vitiated atmosphere is substituted for the sunlight and pure air of Heaven. With the advance of the season, the regimental hospitals were deprived of many of their advantages, and the general hospitals which had sprung into existence were over crowded with the increasing number of the sick. These were usually old buildings, constructed for other purposes, ill adapted to the wants of the surgeon, and often inflexible to any reforms he was disposed to institute. As a consequence, they are inconvenient, ill ventilated, wanting a full supply of pure water, and destitute of commodious and sufficient bath rooms and privies. They also have been, and are still, as a general rule, over stocked with patients, without an adequate supply of beds, bedding, and hospital clothing; and not often furnished with a sufficient



number of intelligent and faithful nurses. There is, therefore, and must long be, much to be desired in the condition of the general hospitals throughout the West, and there must continue to be both sickness and mortality, as a consequence of their imperfection. It gives me pleasure, however, to testify to the earnestness and efficiency of the medical directors of the different departments under whose control they are. In most instances they are doing all in their power to ameliorate the condition of the sick under their charge. They have received with cordiality the proffered assistance of the Sanitary Commission, and have accepted gratefully the large amount of hospital stores thus placed at their disposal. By the free use of the resources of the Government, and the liberal donations of the people, the hospitals of Wheeling, Louisville, Cairo, and St. Louis, by far the most important ones in the West, have been furnished with nearly all things necessary to the comfort and well being of the sick; and in all from which I have any reports, the amendment of condition is steadily progressing. Here, as at the East, a radical and general difficulty has been experienced in keeping a hospital in proper condition, from the impossibility, by means now in use, of having the hospital bedding and clothing promptly and thoroughly washed as it becomes soiled, so that the sick may be always cleanly, sightly, and comfortable. How this desirable end can be accomplished, I am not at present prepared to say, but where it is now achieved, it certainly evinces unusual energy and virtue on the part of surgeons and nurses.

#### WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The condition of the troops in camp and hospital in Western Virginia has been in some important respects modified since the publication of my former report. The number and percentage of sick has very largely increased, while the means employed for their care, both by the Government and by the Sanitary Commission, have been sensibly augmented, the number of hospitals multiplied, their condition much improved, and a great quantity of hospital stores supplied to them. The causes of this prevalence of disease in a country proverbially healthful, are, I think, unmistakable, easily pointed out, and for the most part connected with the unusual hardships to which our troops have been exposed. These hardships have been due to the nature of the topographical features of the country, the severity of the duty imposed upon too small a force; to heavy rains, floods in the rivers, which induced great suffering, and the early approach of winter, for which our troops were not fully prepared.

That portion of Virginia occupied by our forces includes the summits, passes, western slopes, and foot-hills of the mountains, and the plateau

country bordering the Ohio and Kanawha. This latter region, once nearly level and smooth, has been deeply cut by the draining streams, which run in narrow valleys of excavation several hundred feet in depth. These form the channels of communication, and when traversed by troops, it has been necessary that the flank companies of regiments, and the flank regiments of columns, should cover the broken and thickly-wooded hill-sides in their progress; thus meeting with almost inconceivable obstacles, which greatly tried their powers of endurance. The geological substructure of the whole country is that of the coal measures, the water excellent, the drainage free, the air pure and salubrious. Yet, in face of all these advantages, the military necessities connected with the occupation of a long frontier by a force in numbers about half what was desirable for the purpose; the forced marches; the difficulties in the way of the transportation of needed supplies, and excessive rains, have entailed sufferings not experienced by any other division of our army. Add to this an inadequate supply of clothing, and we have ample cause for the prevalence of disease.

In the Valley of the Kanawha the sufferings and sickness have been greatly aggravated by the many sad consequences of a remarkable flood by which it was inundated in October. The effect of this and other misfortunes on the health of the troops, was such that at November 1st, out of a force of about 12,000 men, 2,038 were on the sick list.

Since my last report, our inspector, Dr. Griswold, has visited all the camps and hospitals in Western Virginia, with the exception of those at Cheat Mountain. The large force at this point has recently been much reduced, but he is now on his way to visit those remaining, who have established themselves in winter quarters. The results of his inspection are given in the following extracts from his general report to me, the detailed inspection returns having been forwarded to the Secretary.

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I left Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 20th, and arriving in this city, I procured the store 105½ Main street, by the aid of Governor Pierpont, from Mr. Thomas Hornbrook, the owner, for an office for the Commission and depot for hospital stores. No charge is to be made for rent until such time as it may be rented to the advantage of the owner.

On the 24th untimo I procceded to Grafton, and inspected the camp of the 7th Virginia Regiment there stationed, the report of which I send you herewith. The hospital at Grafton I found improved in many respects, especially in neatness and order. The building was being completed, but the delay in the receipt of lumber had prevented the accomplishment of some of the improvements I had recommended on a

former visit. The large number of sick still crowding this hospital from surrounding outposts, together with the near approach of the inclement season, induced me to recommend the construction of barracks, immediately adjacent to the main building, suitable for a dining room, wash room, and quarters for the surgeon and assistants. The reasons for making these additions to the hospital being given to General Kelly, he approved of the measure, and orders were given for their construction at the earliest possible date. A matron and one female nurse had been engaged in this hospital, and were rendering valuable service. Patients expressed much pleasure in having females in attendance upon them. Dr. John D. M. Carr still occupies the post of surgeon. He was originally called by Major Oakes to act as assistant surgeon of the 1st Virginia Regiment, before the organization of the government of Western Virginia and afterwards assigned to this post.

#### POST HOSPITAL AT CLARKSBURG, VA.

(Inspected Sept. 24th, 1861.)

Charles R. Winne, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., has been appointed to this post since my visit in August last. Two large private dwellings are occupied for the hospital, situated about one mile apart, and well adapted to the wants of the service; one being at the eastern and the other at the western extremity of the town, convenient for the reception of the sick and wounded from either direction. At the date of my inspection there were 122 sick and wounded in hospital. Average admissions per month, 90. Prevalent diseases were typhoid fever, remittent fever, chronic rheumatism, dysentery, diarrhoea, and occasionally a case of intermittent. The hospital buildings were kept in good order; the wards well ventilated, and strict police regulations enforced. At the western building a matron was employed, and perfect order and neatness maintained. A requisition for medical supplies had been made on the Medical Director, Dr. Wright, of Cincinnati, but not yet received. There was but a small quantity of medicines, and no instruments on hand.

The regimental hospital of the 3d Virginia Regiment, at this place, was being closed up, by direction of Dr. Horace R. Wirtz, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., of General Rosecrans' staff. The convalescent sick were being discharged, and the principal amount of medical supplies placed in the hands of the post quartermaster; the balance being forwarded to the regimental surgeon. No report was forwarded to the Medical Director.



## POST HOSPITAL, GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.

(Inspected Sept. 29, 1861.)

I found the hospital at this place in charge of Dr. T. F. Gabriel, commissioned surgeon by the Governor of Ohio. The number of sick in hospital was 129, occupying two small, illy constructed houses, altogether unsuited for the purpose. The rooms were small, windows mostly immovable, and hence ventilation impossible. I found on a wharf boat thirty-seven discharged sick, who had come down the Kanawha the day previous, separated from their surgeon, without passes to go further, or rations. I caused them to be fed, from the hotel, with coffee, soup, and crackers, early in the morning, before visiting the hospital.

Under these circumstances, I advised that ample hospital accommodations be immediately secured. On investigation, I learned that barracks could not be erected within four or six weeks, and that the only building in town suitable for the purpose was the Union School House, containing eight large rooms. A meeting of the School Board was convened at 3 o'clock P. M., that day, and on presenting the subject to them in such manner as the case seemed to warrant, a voluntary consent was obtained for the occupancy of the building for hospital purposes, and before night the sick from the wharf boat were removed to it. Dr. Robison, brigade surgeon of Gen. Cox's staff, arrived that evening, and afterwards afforded essential aid to Dr. Gabriel in the reorganization of the hospital.

The number of deaths at this hospital since July 19th have been six. Since September 1st fresh vegetables have been supplied by the post commissary. Previous to that date the loyal citizens of Gallipolis had contributed largely for the comfort of the sick. The hospital having no stove but a sheet-iron one, the citizens had organized a committee of ladies to cook the rations daily at their several homes. The only hospital bedding in use had been contributed by the citizens, and from surrounding towns. Fresh beef was now supplied four days in the week. Milk was also furnished in sufficient quantity.

No hospital stores, nor medicines, nor instruments, had been supplied from the Medical Director. Purchases of medicines had been made from a village druggist, by order of a commanding officer. I advised that requisitions for these supplies be immediately made on the Medical Director at Cincinnati.

The active co-operation of the citizens of Gallipolis in surrendering their school building for a hospital, and in furnishing subsistence and bedding for the sick, is worthy of the highest commendation.



## POST HOSPITAL AT PARKERSBURG, VA.

(Inspected October 1, 1861.)

This hospital is situated about one mile east of the centre of the city of Parkersburgh, on an elevated site well suited for the purpose. It is tolerably clean, well ventilated, and apparently well disciplined. Dr. Albert P. Wheeler, a citizen physician, is acting as surgeon, under an appointment by Gov. Pierpont; Dr. John T. Wharton, assistant. Some distrust of the competency of the surgeon has been entertained, on the ground of intemperate habits, but I could learn of no abuse from that cause. A good supply of medicines was obtained by requisition on the Medical Director, Dr. Wright, of Cincinnati, while the hospital was in charge of Dr. Barr, surgeon 36th regiment O. V.

The hospital is well supplied with fresh meat and vegetables from the hospital fund; also milk, butter, and other necessities of subsistence.

The number of sick in hospital, 38. Treated the last month, 109. Deaths, 1.

## HOSPITAL FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS, WHEELING, VA.

(Inspected October 12, 1861.)

The arrangement for the treatment of disabled soldiers was made by Maj. Oakes, in this city, prior to the organization of the government of Western Virginia. Dr. Logan, a respectable druggist, was authorized to act as post surgeon, and a contract was made with the Catholic hospital, in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, to receive and attend to the sick at \$3.50 each per week. Dr. Logan employs a physician to attend the patients, whether at his own cost, or at the expense of the Government, I have been unable to learn. The medicines are supplied from Dr. Logan's store.

In my inspection of the Catholic hospital, I could not learn the number of soldiers that have been treated there. I was informed, however, that as many as thirty had been in at a time, but now reduced to sixteen. But three deaths are said to have occurred. The treatment in hospital, in food and attention, I have no doubt has been good.

## CAMPS AND HOSPITALS IN THE VALLEY OF THE KANAWHA.

\* \* \* I reached the headquarters of Brigadier General W. S. Rosecrans, commander of the Army of Western Virginia, October 22. The camp of Gen. Rosecrans is situated two miles east or southeast of Gauley Bridge, and on New river, the union of which with Gauley river forms the Kanawha. The ascent from the ferry which crosses the mouth of the Gauley river is about 500 feet. The road leads along

the left bank of New river, beneath overhanging cliffs one and two hundred feet high, for a quarter of a mile, and then rapidly ascends in a tortuous course. The camp is known as "Tompkins' Farm," the owner, of that name, being a colonel in the rebel service, on the opposite side of New river.

The camp is neatly laid out, on a gentle slope descending southeast, and directly in front of Tompkins' house, which is guarded against spoliation, and its inmates, four children and attendants, protected by order of the general. I was happy to find myself recognized from a former official interview, and treated with all the consideration due the Commission. The quartermaster, Capt. C. M. Goulding, afforded me every facility I could ask in transport to the distant camps.

From the returns accompanying this, you will learn the general and relative situations of all the brigades and isolated camps inspected. That of Gen. Benham, embracing the 10th, 12th, and 13th regiments, O. V., is reported under the best police management. This is due, measurably, to Gen. Benham's personal care for his regiments, and also the efficient attendance of Dr. Geo. G. Shumard, brigade surgeon. The large amount of sickness in these regiments, is referable to the severity of the service they have endured, thus over-balancing the advantages of strict sanitary police.

My attention was often called to the fact that this portion of the army is supplied with coffee in the sack, in witnessing the process of roasting and grinding or pounding in camp. The roasting is usually done in the camp kettle, by which means it is often rendered perfectly inodorous, or in other words, it is burned black. The pounding is done in the same vessel, often with the butt of the musket. Of course, coffee prepared in this way makes not only an innutritious beverage, but is absolutely injurious. If coffee could be properly roasted and ground without sophistication, and packed in twelve pound tin cans, or tin pails with bails and covers, the Government would make a vast saving in many ways, while the army would derive a great benefit from its use. Put up in the manner last specified, an article of great convenience in camp would be supplied.

The employment of a non-combatant cook for each company of men seems to warrant, in the volunteer service, the serious consideration of the Government. Some regulation should be introduced to secure the provision of better prepared food for the army. The abuses in this particular have unquestionably been among the great sources from which so much sickness has fallen upon our troops.

There are thirteen buildings occupied as hospitals in this column of

the army. Excepting one at Point Pleasant, one at Charleston, and perhaps one at Gauley, all the others are altogether unfit for the occupation of the sick. Most of them are merely log tenements, some without glazed windows or means of heating. The sick, in some instances, lie upon loose straw upon the floor. Above Gauley, none had cots or bunks, but in some instances, rude bedsteads had been found and used. In several regiments the sick were treated in tents altogether. The assistant surgeon of the 12th regiment O. V. had constructed bunks of split timber, using barrel staves for bottom slats. He had also formed an earth flue, which served to warm and dry the air in the tent, and the seven patients he had under treatment were seemingly the best provided for of any above Gauley. A continued rain, however, would have materially changed the appearance of his hospital. The skill exhibited in providing for his sick, with the perfect order and neatness, was highly creditable. The reasons given for the accumulation of so large a number of sick, were the difficulty of transporting them over the rough roads, and that there were no post hospitals accessible to which they could be sent.

#### U. S. MILITARY HOSPITAL, WHEELING, VA.

You are aware that I have been organizing a hospital here. A telegram came on to the Quartermaster and to me from General Rosecrans, through Dr. Wirtz, ordering a hospital to be organized here, capable of holding four or five hundred. The Quartermaster returned a dispatch to send on the sick, without consulting me, and then delivered the dispatch to me. I had no alternative; a battle at Gauley was imminent, communication was cut off, and I felt that I must obey the order, not only as a duty to the General commanding, but from every consideration of humanity and justice. I immediately set myself at work, and last Wednesday got a building on Water Street; to-day I have a hospital with 285 patients, all bedded and in the most comfortable condition. The sick require the close attendance of two surgeons, and my time is constantly occupied from 5 A. M. to 11 and 12 P. M. To be sure I have gotten over the worst of it, but there is no one here yet who can make a requisition by authority. I have written to Dr. Wirtz, and expect relief soon, if a surgeon can be spared from above. I received 105 more men from a boat this morning, kept them separate from those previously in hospital, and had them all bathed, and the sickest put regularly to bed, by 3 P. M. To-night the hospital is as cheerful as a large hotel.

At a later date, Dr. G. writes:

I remain, as yet, the chief head of the hospital.

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I have ten female nurses and ten males. Without the women I would not undertake the control. The three ladies from Cleveland are rendering excellent service, and were in good time. I supply the destitute with shirts, drawers, and socks, from the stores of the Sanitary Commission. Three hundred beds are furnished wholly or in part. I have 261 in hospital, have returned to duty 21, transfer to Covington, Kentucky, 23 to-morrow, and by first boat send 48 back to duty. Deaths 3.

Since the date of my last report, the depot of hospital stores has been carefully and well managed by Mr. Fracker, and has greatly increased in efficiency. The number of articles of bedding and clothing received up to this date is 10,770, the number distributed, 4,814.

### OHIO.

Ohio has now about 80,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, and several batteries of artillery, in the field or in camp. Of these, however, nearly all have left the limits of the State, and are included among those whose condition has received the attention of our inspectors in the different departments of the army to which they have been sent. As a general rule, they have left the State in excellent sanitary condition, and, particularly those more recently recruited, well appointed and commanded by officers of ability and experience. To this rule, however, so creditable to the authorities, there have been some glaring, I may say, shameful exceptions. Even so late as the 25th November, I saw one regiment, which had been up to that time on duty in Western Virginia, not yet provided with overcoats; and when, on their arrival at Cincinnati, *en route* for Kentucky, overcoats were offered them, they were of a quality so inferior that they were indignantly rejected. It is but just to state, however, that the State authorities have labored most ardently and earnestly to secure the proper equipment of her troops, and for their unwearied efforts and general success are worthy of all honor.

Every exertion has been made to provide each regiment with surgeons fully qualified for their duties, and all that a competent examining board could do to secure this end has been done. The examination of candidates has been thorough and trying; and the appointments from those who have passed the ordeal just and judicious. A large number of these surgeons have, as I know, received the more important documents of the Commission, and are fully impressed with the necessity of the observance of sanitary laws in camp life. Most of the regiments still remaining within the State have been inspected by our associate members, and their sanitary condition as reported by them is in the highest degree satisfactory.

Since my last report, Branch Commissions composed of associate



members have been formed in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, which promise to be efficient auxiliaries in the work of the Commission.

At Cleveland, through the intervention of the Branch Commission, a portion of the Marine Hospital has been opened for the reception of such enlisted men, or those discharged from disability, as may be in need of assistance other than that furnished by the military authorities. The wards set apart for this purpose have been neatly furnished by the ladies of the Aid Society, and every possible provision made for the comfort of such as are entitled to the aid thus afforded. The number of cases requiring assistance has already been considerable, and it is evident that the opening of such a hospital will supply what has been a real want in Northern Ohio.

At Columbus the Branch Commission is composed of earnest, intelligent, and influential men, who have already initiated an efficient system of sanitary measures in behalf of the troops stationed at Camp Chase. They will also prove active co-laborers in the general work of the Commission.

At Cincinnati our Branch Commission includes many of her best known and most philanthropic citizens. Its President is R. W. Burnett, Esq., now a full member of the Commission. By the request of the Cincinnati Branch, I was present at its organization, and can testify to the intelligence and zeal with which they have begun their labors. Much had previously been done for the relief of the soldiers by Dr. Mussey and other associates, with the co-operation of the benevolent ladies of the city, in securing the opening of the Marine Hospital, bringing the sick soldiers from Camp Dennison, and gratuitously, though most faithfully, providing for all their wants. More recently, however, the care of this hospital has been assumed by the War Department, and it has been filled to repletion by the sick brought down from the Kanawha. Having received a commission as brigade surgeon, Dr. Mussey still remains in charge.

I should also mention among the good works of the Cincinnatians, the formation of a Citizens' Relief Association, by whom large quantities of clothing and stores were collected and disbursed, by a committee appointed for that purpose, among the troops in Western Virginia. A most interesting report of the visit of this committee to Virginia has been published since their return.

Perhaps the most important exhibition of public benevolence on the part of the citizens of Ohio yet remains to be noticed. I allude to the organization and most efficient labors of the Soldiers' Aid Societies, composed of patriotic women who have devoted themselves with astonish-

ing success to the preparation of hospital stores, bedding, clothing, and edibles for the volunteers in the various divisions of the Army of the West. Through their agency a vast amount of good has been accomplished, suffering relieved, and undoubtedly life preserved. Of these societies the more important are: that at Columbus, made auxiliary to the Commission by a recent vote, and that at Cleveland, which has been in operation since April last. With the workings of the latter Society I have been personally and constantly conversant. As these are fully set forth in the report of the Society—published as document No. 37 by the Commission—I need here only refer to the subject to say that by but one other similar organization in the country has more material aid been rendered to the cause of humanity in the present war, and in none more zeal and self-devotion, or more skill and energy displayed in the performance of a self-imposed task. By this efficient auxiliary of our Commission, over 69,000 articles of bedding, clothing etc., have been collected and prepared, and over 40,000 distributed to meet the real and pressing wants of our soldiers.

#### KENTUCKY.

Since the publication of my last report, Kentucky has been opened as a new field for the operations of the Commission; one too important to be neglected; one, indeed, where the demand upon the intervention of the Commission has been so urgent as to require the employment of all the resources it could command for that district.

After months passed in a vain effort to maintain a position of neutrality, in a struggle not only of paramount but vital importance to every State and section of our country, Kentucky at last burst the shackles that the enemies both of her prosperity and of the Government had forced upon her, and came out boldly and fully for the Union; raised her quota of troops and supplies, and invoked the aid of her sister States in her efforts to punish the treason of her own disloyal citizens, and to repel the encroachments of the Southern rebels invading her territory. Her cry for help was promptly answered; large numbers of troops from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, hurried to her rescue, and again the "dark and bloody ground" became the seat of war.

Receiving sad accounts of the destitution and suffering, particularly of the hastily and as yet imperfectly equipped Kentucky troops, and the loyal men of Tennessee, who had been driven from their homes by the rebel forces, I felt it to be my duty to go to their relief. I therefore went to Kentucky in the latter part of October, taking with me two experienced surgeons, Drs. W. M. Prentice and A. N. Read, both of Ohio.

We were most cordially greeted on our arrival by the Rev. J. H. Heywood, who had been since June an associate member of the Commission. A meeting was at once called at his house, where a local Commission was organized, composed of men well known for their intelligence and patriotism throughout the West. A depot was immediately established, the co-operation of the loyal ladies of Louisville secured, and a course of usefulness entered upon which has been continued with unabated ardor and constantly increasing success up to the present time.

Though but incidental to the subject matter of this report, I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration for the fervent loyalty exhibited both in actions and words by the many distinguished citizens of Kentucky which it was my pleasure to meet. In their patriotic devotion the greatest sacrifices have been cheerfully made, and the strongest ties of nature and affection unhesitatingly severed. The virtues of these noble men and women, burnished by the bitterest trials humanity can suffer, shine with a lustre which must be seen to be appreciated. My visit to Kentucky has been the saddest and yet most hope-inspiring episode of my experience in this fratricidal war, and I am sure I shall be pardoned for thus alluding to the instances of lofty self-consecration which I have witnessed.

At my instance the energies of the Louisville Commission, and the ladies co-operating with them, were first directed to the supply of the pressing wants of the Tennessee and Kentucky troops, of warm and comfortable clothing; promising, as I did, to supply all needed hospital stores from the ample resources of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Cleveland, unreservedly placed at my disposal. I found the medical directorship of the department of the Cumberland in the able hands of Dr. Rob. Murray, U. S. A., a gentleman of large views, fully alive to his responsibilities, but heavily burdened with his cares and duties. By him we were cordially received, and our proffered aid gratefully accepted. On his requisition and that of the President of the Louisville Commission, Dr. T. S. Bell, over two thousand sets of hospital bedding and clothing were at once forwarded to this point by the Cleveland Aid Society. The hospitals in Louisville were at this time greatly crowded by the sick rapidly concentrating there from the different columns of Gen. Sherman's command; were defective in many particulars, and wanting in many things essential to the well-being of their inmates. A portion of these wants were supplied by the means already detailed, and the necessary changes and expansions of the hospital system were being as rapidly and thoroughly effected by the Medical Director as could be done with the means at his command.



There, as elsewhere at the West, the entire absence of buildings well adapted to hospital purposes must forbid the hope that the general hospitals can ever be all that could be desired.

On acquainting myself with the distribution of the troops in Kentucky, Dr. Read was sent to examine into the condition and wants of those stationed on the line of the Nashville Railroad, south from Louisville, and such as were located along the Ohio, west from Louisville and east from Paducah. Dr. Prentice, meanwhile, was requested to inspect the columns of Gen. Thomas, south from Lexington, and that of Gen. Nelson, in the valley of the Licking. From these gentlemen requisitions were received from time to time for the supply of wants detected in the camps and hospitals which they visited. These requisitions were promptly filled, and during the month of November, more than a hundred boxes of hospital stores were forwarded to Kentucky from Cleveland alone; and in addition large contributions were made by the patriotic ladies of Columbus, O., and Detroit, Mich. Dr. Read finished his round of inspection in about three weeks, forwarded detailed reports of twenty-four regiments, and a summary of his observations, from which I give the following extracts:

As you requested, I have inspected the U. S. troops in the Western Department of the Cumberland. \* \* \* \* \*

In making these inspection returns, it gives me pleasure to state to you that I have been received everywhere kindly and courteously.

Brig. General McCook gave me an introduction to his brigade surgeons, Drs. Meylet and Chambers, who entered cordially into the objects of my mission, and so far as they could find time accompanied me in my inspections at Camp Nevin; and otherwise rendered me all the aid in their power.

They expressed themselves as being greatly aided in their duties by my visit, from my efforts to co-operate with them in a common object.

Gens. Johnson, Wood, Rosseau, and Neigle, of Camp Nevin, and Gen. Hazzard, of Camp Holman, furnished me with an attendant to each of the regiments in their respective brigades, and "furthered the inquiries and objects of my mission to the utmost of their ability."

The officers and the medical staff of the regiments visited received me as one who was working with them for a common object.

The manner of my examinations was as follows: After an introduction to the commanding officer and the surgeons, I asked that, if it would in no respect interfere with military duties, the captains of the companies might be called, and that I might be introduced to them. After the introduction, I stated to them, in few words, the object of my visit, and



asked them to go with me to the tents of their respective companies—then to return and listen to the questions I was required to answer.

They were always courteous, and usually showed a commendable desire to learn their duties more perfectly. They often asked me for a copy of the inspection returns, that they might have the benefit of the suggestions made by those questions.

After asking and answering those which had reference more particularly to the duties of the captains, I thanked them for the kind manner in which they had given me aid, and detained them no longer.

I then, with the surgeons, visited the sink, the hospital, the sutler's stores, and commissary department.

Returning to the colonel's tent (unless, as was frequently the case, he accompanied me in these visits,) I made to him and to the surgeons such suggestions as seemed necessary.

As the result of these visits of inspection, I will give you some of the special characteristics of each regiment, where I found anything of interest, which may not be found in my printed reports.

#### ——— *Regiment.*

I found camp streets, tents, spaces between tents, drains, and edges of the tents, filthy. Refuse slops were buried in trenches; but the trenches were nearly filled before the dirt was filled in.

The men were undisciplined. The horses tied very near the tents, and their dung not removed. The cooking bad. The men dirty. In short, by want of cleanliness and attention to the requirements of civilized life, the men were in danger of losing all self-respect.

But I am glad to be able to add to this unpleasant statement of affairs, that I passed through the camp some days after—that I again saw the colonel, the surgeon, and one of the captains, who represented that they were making improvements, and assured me they would continue to do so. I can add my testimony to theirs, that there was a decided improvement since my visit.

#### *Sixth Indiana Regiment.*

This was in excellent condition. The colonel is a gentleman and a soldier, alive and active in his duties. The surgeon, Dr. Charles S. Schussler, is eminently well qualified, and devotes himself untiringly to his duties. Guided by science, he is saving many lives by taking those precautions necessary to prevent sickness. Means were used to promote cheerfulness, and the men were in good spirits.

The streets of the camp are beautifully turnpiked and well drained. The tents are struck or raised from the bottom often. The slops are

carefully disposed of, so as not to be in the least offensive; the men clean, their clothing well washed. The sink was on the leeward side of the camp, in the woods, at a proper distance, neither too far nor too near. A nice walk was cut to it through the woods, trees cut close to the ground, and felled in such a manner as to make even a beautiful fence on each side of the walk.

Most of the companies have built log houses, with fire-places and chimneys, for kitchens, well adapted for the use designed. But two men were so sick but that they would join their regiment were an order given to march—one of these disabled by an accidental wound, the other sick with fever.

——— *Regiment.*

Tents crowded, only one foot apart in the rows. Men had not each two shirts; blankets very poor; scraps of food between the tents; sink sometimes used. Men would obtain ardent spirits, and were sent to the guard-house in consequence of intoxication—were allowed access to pedlers, from whom they obtained pies, cakes, and fruits, to their injury.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

*Thirty-Second Indiana Regiment.*

Col. Williek's German regiment, after recruiting commenced, in twelve days were mustered into service. The men are well disciplined and cleanly; police of the camp excellent. The surgeon assured me that the men, as a rule, wash their feet, face, neck, and hands, once a day, and bathe once a week.

A regimental fund has been established after this manner: the regiment has one-half the profits of the sutler.

A shoemaker and a tailor are attached to each company. The men drink moderately of lager beer, and draw one pint of whiskey each morning for every twelve men.

——— *Ohio Regiment.*

Were furnished with poor, very light blankets. Nine of them had no overcoats. The body coat was a light summer blouse—pants of the same quality. Men cooked by mess, poorly; bread hard, old, poor.

——— *Ohio Regiment*

Camp in fair condition, men in good health, but had no overcoats, and no body coats but a light blouse.

*Thirty-Fourth Illinois Regiment.*

Health unusually good—the medical staff very efficient. The regiment had been systematically vaccinated—the only one I found that had been.

The camp and men were unusually cleanly—sink in excellent condition. The dung made by the horses was removed, so as not to be in the least offensive. The hospital, in excellent condition, had comfortable beds, (the only one I found which had,) and a supply of delicacies and cordials. It was almost a luxury to be sick there, compared with most regimental hospitals.

———*Indiana Regiment.*

Was encamped on a low bottom-land, the surface dry, but unfavorable for drainage; the tents crowded in the rows; too many men in a tent; the police of the camp not as good as the average; and although there was not a greater number sick than in many other camps, the sickness was more severe, and was increasing. In looking for the cause, we could not find it in the water used, in the cooking, nor in the police of the camp; but on digging, at from one to two feet, in all parts of the camp, we found water. The dampness was such that it would gather in large drops upon the lower side of the rubber blankets used by the men while sleeping. The surgeons of the regiment, with Brigade Surgeons Mylert and Chambers, united with me in a request to General McCook, that, if practicable, the regiment might be moved. The General received the request very cordially, and immediately ordered the removal to drier, higher, and better aired grounds. I have no doubt but by this the men will be greatly benefited and many lives saved.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth and Seventy-Ninth Penn. Regiments.*

In good health and well supplied with everything but bread. They were, mostly, drawing flour instead of bread, and were using flap-jacks—flour mixed with water and fried in grease; this, if continued, must produce sickness.

*Ninth Michigan Regiment.*

Men suffering severely from measles. They were exhausted by hard work in the rain and loss of sleep on their march to camp; and I have no doubt but the severity, if not the number, of cases was increased by that cause; 300 were sick in hospital, being in different houses, with bad ventilation, no beds, and no means of changing the clothing worn in camp. (Wants since fully supplied.—N.)

———*Regiment.*

Camp unclean; been occupied but a week or ten days; expecting to move soon. The sink used but a little more than the ground in the vicinity, from which there is a gentle slope to a small stream of surface water some few yards distant, from which all the water used in camp is obtained. It would be hardly extravagant to say that the sink was the



fountain-head of the stream. The men complained, and had the promise of moving to a better location.

———*Indiana Regiment.*

Police good. Cooking done by company cooks, three cooks to each company, changing one every two weeks; cooking done better than usual. Measles have been prevalent, but most have now had them and are convalescent.

*Nineteenth Illinois Regiment.*

W. Bogue, the surgeon, and also the assistant surgeon, are both well qualified for their duties. The troops are in good condition, encamped on the side of a hill, the Colonel's tent being at the top, overlooking the encampment. Natural drainage so good that very little artificial was necessary. The sick in the hospital were well cared for, and although two were very sick, they would probably recover. The boys had taken possession of the Elizabethtown *Democrat*, a secesh paper, and in its place were publishing the *Zouave Gazette*, a paper of "decided Union tendencies."

During the three weeks I was engaged in this inspection, I visited twenty-four regiments, two companies of artillery, three parts of regiments of infantry and two companies of cavalry. The most important results of the inspection are:

1st. Calling the attention of the troops to the necessity of a better system of camp police.

2d. Endeavoring to secure better cooking of food and making of coffee, substituting for the wasteful and unhealthy but too common mode of cooking by frying, the better mode of stewing or making soups.

3d. Calling the attention of the surgeons to the importance of systematic vaccination, which they seemed to feel, and which they promised to attend to as soon as they could obtain the virus.

4th. Urging the men, through the captains of companies, to greater cleanliness, both of their tents and persons.

There seem to be difficulties in the way of general bathing, or washing the body, in cold weather.

5th. Securing the removal of the 30th and 39th Indiana regiments from unhealthy to more healthy camps.

6. An additional stimulus was given to all in authority to attain to a more thorough police of the camps.

This was evinced by the interest manifested by all in command in the object of my visit, and especially by an order issued by Brigadier General Wood to each regiment in his command, calling their attention to the importance of the subject, and requiring its better performance.



Before closing this report, I would remark that the soldiers suffer from what they find at the sutler's. They spend their money for much that injures them. The medical men whom I met were decidedly of this opinion, as were also many of the commanding officers. Can anything be done to prevent this source of disease and waste of money, at the same time the soldier to be supplied with the few articles needed, such as stationery and tobacco?

Dr. Prentice found the troops in his district much scattered, difficult of access, and in constant motion. Up to the present time no detailed report of their condition has reached me, though I have received several requisitions for hospital stores, which have been filled, and letters attesting his earnestness and success.

The forced marches performed by the columns of Generals Nelson and Thomas have been peculiarly severe and trying, and by their influence the number of sick in each command was suddenly doubled. While I will not pretend to pass judgment upon the military necessity in each case, I am constrained to say that only the most urgent need could justify the infliction of so much suffering, disease, and death, upon our troops.

Through the agency of Dr. P. and the exertion of Dr. Bell, of Louisville, a society for the relief of the wants of the troops has been organized at Lexington, where Dr. P. was most kindly received, and in many ways aided in the performance of his duties. To Dr. Chipley, the superintendent of the Insane Asylum, and Mr. James Harper, the agent of Adams Express, he reports himself under peculiar obligations.

In a letter just received, Dr. Prentice says:

I give you the following list of hospitals which I have visited, and the larger part of which I have furnished with bedding and clothing received from Soldiers' Aid Societies in Ohio and Kentucky:

Frankfort.....	60	patients, furnished supplies.	
Lexington.....	220	do.	do. do.
Nicholasville.....	30	do.	do. do.
Camp Dick Robinson.....	200	do.	do. do.
Brick Church.....	100	do.	do. do.
Lancaster.....	30	do.	do. do.
Crab Orchard.....	440	do.	do. do.
London.....	620	do.	do. do. in part.
Mt. Vernon.....	72	do.	do. do.
Stanford.....	49	do.	do. do.
Danville.....	185	do.	do. do.
Baptist Church.....	42	do.	do. do.
Lebanon.....	320	do.	do. do.
New Haven.....	93	do.	do. do.
Louisville.....	1,000	do.	do. do. in part.

The greater portion of the sick were in badly ventilated buildings. I have made it a point to visit every part of each, and give my personal

attention to the sinks, water, cooking arrangements, cleanliness of the patients, clothing, and bedding, police of the hospital, &c. ; when in tents, the drainage, &c. The latter, together with the sinks for hospital patients, have been much neglected. I am happy to say that on the second visit made there was usually a decided change for the better.

One fruitful source of sickness among the soldiers is the *want of ventilation of the tents* ; among those I have inspected the wedge tent predominating. I have recommended the officers to attend in person to the ventilation at night, also the airing them as often as twice a week, and I am happy to say the report of the surgeon, where this has been done, shows the sickness and mortality to have decreased.

At Lebanon and Springfield I found nine cases of small-pox, and I have urged upon the surgeons of regiments the necessity of general vaccination ; but the difficulty in procuring vaccine matter for so many regiments has prevented, in many cases, its being done. I sent to friends in Ohio and procured some, and at this date most of those in Gen. Thomas' division have been or are being vaccinated. The Medical Director has been unable to procure one-half that was needed. (I have since supplied large quantities to Kentucky.—N.)

With the number of troops now occupying Kentucky, and with the probability that this will be the scene of active operations during the winter, it seems to me desirable that two good inspectors should be constantly employed in this field. By this means, and the efficient measures of relief at our command, we may confidently anticipate that the instances of destitution and suffering, hitherto so common, may be wholly prevented or made extremely rare.

### ILLINOIS.

In Illinois, I have the pleasure of reporting a general and most enthusiastic devotion to the cause of the Government in the present war ; the enlistment and generally thorough equipment of over 50,000 troops ; the most careful scrutiny into the qualifications of surgeons by an excellent Medical Board ; and an efficient and well-organized system of co-operation with the Sanitary Commission in the work for which it was created. A large number of the troops of this State have been inspected by myself, either in their camps of instruction or in the field, and I can bear testimony to the care which has supervised their organization and equipment, their admirable physique, good behavior and soldierly bearing. The excellent sanitary condition of those at Camp Butler, near Springfield, under the medical care of Dr. Lord, merits special notice, and reflects great credit on his thoroughness. During the two months pre-

ceding my visit, in a force of five thousand men, there had been but three deaths from disease, and an average of less than thirty cases in hospital. It is but just to state, also, that the good condition of these troops is in a great measure due to the assiduous attention to their wants by Capt. Pitcher, U. S. A., an energetic, experienced and enlightened officer, for a long time in command of this camp.

At Chicago a Branch Commission has been formed, composed of earnest, philanthropic men, who have already given evidence of their energy by the organization of a complete system for the supply of the wants of the soldiers; have established a depot; issued an appeal to the public; have collected and distributed a large amount of hospital stores; and have sent committees of their number to inspect the camps and hospitals at Paducah, Cairo, Bird's Point, St. Louis, and other places in the interior of Missouri. The report of one of these committees has been authorized as a document of our Commission, and affords conclusive evidence of the zeal and intelligence of the authors. I was present at the organization of the Chicago Commission, and have subsequently been an eye-witness of the working of their system, and bear cheerful testimony to the wisdom and activity which have characterized their operations. Of this Commission Hon. Mark Skinner is President, E. W. Blatchford Corresponding, and H. E. Seelye Recording Secretary.

The condition of the troops in the vicinity of Cairo is so fully described in the report of Messrs. Patton and Isham, of the Chicago Branch Commission, and in that prepared by Dr. Aigner, herewith given, that nothing more remains for me to say upon that subject. Of the operations of the Sanitary Commission at this point, I will say briefly that Dr. A. has continued during the three months passed the important and acceptable duties to which I have alluded in my former report. Through his agency much has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the forces in this vicinity, both by the exercise of his well earned influence and the distribution of a very large amount of hospital stores, received from Chicago, Cleveland, and the Woman's Central Association of New York. In the performance of his duties as Sanitary Inspector, Dr. A. has enjoyed the cordial sympathy and efficient aid of Gen. U. S. Grant, of whose intelligent appreciation of his mission and unvarying kindness he speaks in the strongest terms. With Drs. Simmons and Taggart, U. S. A., the Medical Director and Purveyor, his relations have been of a most friendly character, and from these gentlemen he has met a spirit of hearty co-operation which has rendered their intercourse agreeable, and materially facilitated a thorough performance of the duties of each.



## DR. AIGNER'S REPORT.

Being about to bring my labors as Camp and Hospital Inspector of the Sanitary Commission in this Department to a close, after a service of three months, I transmit you the following synopsis of my observation as recorded in my detailed inspection returns.

Such a review cannot fail to present many defects in regard to completeness and accuracy of statistics, from the nature of the case, and the short-comings of the observer. The different bodies of troops inspected being scattered over a large extent of territory, their condition had to be investigated at different periods of time, and their constant changes in location and number, as well as their very progress from the state of inexperienced organizations of raw recruits, to well-disciplined corps of an effective army, make a statement which was perfectly correct as to the condition of a regiment several weeks ago, appear false or unjust if we apply it to its actual state to-day. Keeping these difficulties and disturbing influences in mind, I shall attempt to give you a description of the average condition of the volunteer forces which it has been my duty to inspect from the beginning of August to the end of October, referring you to my special returns for details recorded at given days and places.

1.—*Description and General Character of Troops Inspected.*

The troops inspected by me are stationed in Cairo and Mound City, Ill., Bird's Point, and Cape Girardeau, Mo., Fort Holt and Paducah, Ky., in the southeast division of the Department of the West. The bodies inspected are twenty-three regiments of infantry, a regiment and several detached companies of cavalry, (fifteen altogether) and ten companies of artillery, forming two divisions under Gens. U. S. Grant, and Chas. F. Smith, or seven brigades under Gens. McClelland, Payne, L. Wallace, and Cols. Cook, Oglesby, Wm. H. Wallace, and Plummer. All these troops, with the exception of two regiments of infantry each, from Missouri, Indiana, and Iowa, are recruited in Illinois, forming one-half the troops furnished by that State, actually in the field. The predominating nativity is American, only a few regiments containing a considerable quota of Germans; for instance the 9th Illinois, while the foreign element in the rest is insignificantly small, if we except some cavalry and artillery companies. The 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Illinois, and the 7th Indiana, were originally three-months regiments, nearly all the officers and many of the men re-enlisting for the war after the expiration of their first term. The others were organized and mustered into United States service for three years, at different periods



of time, from May to September. The 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, and 22d Illinois, and four companies of artillery and cavalry, were already here when I arrived; the others came from different camps of instruction in their respective States, or active service in Missouri, by a more or less direct route. The present strength of the whole is in the neighborhood of 19,000 men; considerably higher than the aggregate of all regiments and detached companies at the time of their being mustered in.

## 2.—*Character of Camp Sites.*

The camp sites were in all cases selected by the commanders of the respective divisions or brigades, military considerations outweighing all others in most instances. "Military necessity" was also the frequent excuse for the otherwise unwarrantable practice of making a newly-arrived regiment occupy the site just vacated by one ordered off—a practice which led to some bad consequences in a sanitary point of view, with several regiments encamped on Bird's Point (18th, 20th, and 22d.) Excepting the camps of the 7th Illinois and 11th Missouri, at Cape Girardeau, I found those of all regiments on level ground, on the banks of the Mississippi and Ohio, or between the levees at Cairo; more or less unfavorable for surface drainage; unshaded, except those at Paducah, and one (11th Ill.) at Bird's Point; sheltered from the prevailing winds except two at Fort Holt, and one (11th Mo.) at Cape Girardeau; with a soil and sub-soil of sand and clay mixed in various proportions, easily permeable to water, (except to a certain degree, 40th Ill. and 7th Ind. at Paducah,) but, unfortunately, all exposed in a high degree to the poison of malaria. A glance at the annexed synopsis of the consolidated reports of sick and wounded, will show you the consequences of this exposure. As you have investigated personally the character of soil and climate in those portions of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, I need not mention the local conditions of malaria, in this short and hurried review.

## 3.—*Arrangement and Condition of Camps.*

I found the camps arranged mainly in accordance with the army regulation, wherever the locality and the circumstances would permit it. The tents were, on an average, nine yards apart in the rows, the artificial drainage systematic and complete, (except 7th Iowa, 8th Mo., 23d Indiana, 18th, 22d, 40th, and 41st Ill.) with straight drains averaging four inches in depth, and sixth in width, around tents, deeper and wider mains, kept tolerably clean, but rarely with a good outlet. I found the tent floors almost always very dry, even after heavy rains; a good feature, less due to systematic drainage and other care, than to the above-mentioned very porous nature of the soil. In many instances

the commanding officers told me that their men were taught to drain their tents by an inundating shower. Necessity is the best, though not always the mildest and cheapest teacher of sanitary measures, as of so many other things. Camp streets, edges of, and spaces between, tents very clean in most regiments, except 8th and 11th Mo., 2d and 7th Iowa, 18th, 22d, 40th and 41st Ill., at different periods of time.

#### 4.—*Tents, their Character, Ventilation and Management.*

The two Missouri, 8th and 11th Illinois regiments are provided with a large number of Fremont tents, the 7th Illinois with wall, and the 41st Illinois with English or oval tents; the rest are, for the men, a small wedge tent, furnished by their respective States, of various sizes, but invariably too small for the number of men crowded into them, and of inferior material. Commissioned and non-commissioned officers in all the regiments use mostly the wall, some the Sibley or Fremont, but none the wedge tent. I looked upon this description of tent (wedge) and its almost universal use for the men as the more unfortunate because the rule for striking the tents for the purposes of ventilation and cleaning, is still not frequently enough practiced by most regiments. The skirts of the wall, Fremont and Sibley tents can be raised so easily that the men will do it of their own accord, and this practice furnishes a tolerably good substitute for striking the tents, as far as airing and drying of the floors is concerned. The wedge tent does not admit of it, and this defect, together with its insufficient size, ought to condemn its use altogether. The usual average of men to a 7x9x7 wedge tent is five. The care of the ventilation of tents at nights is left in almost all cases to the men. During the last week of October the troops around Cairo received orders to construct barracks of logs and boards, for winter quarters, and three regiments have moved into the old huts in Camp Defiance, formerly occupied by the 8th 9th and 10th Illinois. The 9th and 10th Illinois have been under tents only a short time.

#### 5.—*Bedding and Clothing.*

During August and September the men of almost all the regiments slept on the bare ground, straw or hay being scarce, and lumber not to be had, on account of want of funds in the hands of the Quartermaster. With the cool weather of October came a great demand for these articles, but the supply was insufficient; and in many regiments the men suffered from cold during the night. The great majority of the men have two shirts and one blanket; very few can make a change of clothing at night. The very poor blankets furnished to most regiments at first have nearly in all given place to more serviceable ones; but even these are inferior in weight and texture compared with the regular U. S. A. blankets.

With very few exeptions, all companies are provided with light-blue overcoats of good quality. The quality of the uniform coats and trowsers is very fair, although the new are not in all instances an improvement over the old ones. The 7th Indiana, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, and 22d Illinois, with some artillery companies, wear gray; the rest blue uniforms. In the cut of the body coats great variations have been indulged. From the immense number of photograph and ambrotype likenesses which the "boys" have made of themselves when they receive their uniforms, I conelude that they take considerable pride in them, at least as long as they are new; but I am sorry to see that only few volunteers understand the great military art of making an old uniform appear as neat as a new one. The removal of dust from their clothing is a weekly, not a daily, practice with most men, the inspection for that purpose being made too rarely and negligently by regimental and company commanders. The underclothing is regularly washed once a week in all regiments.

#### 6.—*Personal Cleanliness.*

During the warm weather the men bathed and washed frequently, the facilities for ablution in this Department being unsurpassed. In very few regiments, however, was a regular practice and inspection by officers instituted to that effect. The washing of the feet is not regularly looked after by the commissioned or non-commissioned officers of any regiment. Body lice have troubled but very few men; fleas, on the contrary, have been, and still are a scourge of all our camps. On the whole, the volunteers keep their persons as clean as the generality of people in the localities they come from.

#### 7.—*Cleanliness of Camp.*

The camps present generally a very clean appearance as far as the streets between the tents are concerned. The rules in regard to the daily collection and burial of kitchen and mess refuse, horse dung, etc., are not strictly kept by any regiments with the exception of perhaps two or three. The privies are all at a proper distance from camps, and properly constructed, but the great difficulty is to make all the men go there and nowhere else at all times. In three or four regiments the men are prevented from easing themselves elsewhere by the guards, and rigidly punished for any violation of this regulation; but the territory surrounding the camps of all others presents many evidences of gross neglect of camp police, and gives many a regiment, otherwise well reputed, a bad odor. Separate officers' sinks I have frequently heard spoken of, but I must confess that I never saw one execept in some buildings which served as headquarters to some commander. The horses and mules are almost invariably kept



too near the camps, and the daily removal of their dung is a myth dreamed of only by the authors of the army regulations and the Sanitary Commission Inspectors.

#### 8.—*Water, Source and Quality.*

All regiments in Cairo, Mound City, Fort Holt, and Bird's Point drink Ohio or Mississippi water; in Cape Girardeau and Padueah, well or spring water is used by most regiments. The water of some of the latter is deemed unwholesome by some surgeons, but I am not aware of any scientific investigations of the qualities of the water procured from them having been made. The free use of ice, which was very liberally furnished to all the troops during the hot season, has, in my opinion, had more to do with the prevalence of certain diseases in July, August and September, than any unwholesome character of the water used as a drink.

#### 9.—*Rations and Cooking.*

The requisitions for the rations are in all regiments made by the captains, who, in many companies, mess with the men, and then, of course, examine and taste the food for the latter. Even where this is not the case, I have never heard any complaints by the men regarding the quantity or quality of the rations. Instead of want there is waste in many cases. Now and then the men will grumble at the uniformity of their meals, which they try to vary by purchasing pies or fruit out of their private purse; but even this fault-finding is disappearing gradually, as the several companies learn how to save and trade off their surplus rations for articles of food not furnished by government. I can state from personal inquiry and observation, that every well man in this force gets fresh meat three times and fresh vegetables twice, if not oftener, a week, while he has his choice between fresh and hard bread, every day. This has been the case, not during the entire period of the war, but during nearly the whole of my stay here, and consequently the monthly reports of surgeons have a steady diminution of scurvy until September, when we find only one man in 9,000 afflicted with that scourge of armies. The cooking is done, with very few exceptions, on the unbroken ground, but in all regiments I found the ingenuity of soldiers at work constructing hearths out of railroad iron, stones, logs, &c., facilitating the operations of cooks. Nearly one-half of all the companies have permanent cooks, and the principle of rotation in office is gradually dying out as far as that of cooks is concerned. How is the food generally cooked? Very fairly, for men who are satisfied or have to be satisfied with such materials as the government furnishes. There are many men and women who would not eat it unless dying from starvation; but these people are fortunately not soldiers; while many a laboring man's family



would regard the common diet of our volunteers as a holiday feast. I have enjoyed many a soldier's dinner with relish, except their coffee, which is uniformly bad, (when made) and such dainties as crackers fried in fat of pork, or cakes made of flour and water, dainties which the men will persist in preparing and eating in spite of the remonstrances of their surgeons and officers. The bread is baked by contract bakers, or got from town bakeries in trade for rations; it is, as a rule, very good. The use of tea, instead of coffee, is gaining ground in most regiments, by the efforts of surgeons.

#### 10.—*Company Fund.*

I have found very few captains who had a clear idea of such an arrangement, and even now, the number of companies in which it has been established, is very small.

#### 11.—*Sutlers.*

All regiments have sutlers, with the exception of two, appointed by the colonels, (except in the 8th Ill.) The prices of articles sold by them are fixed by a council of administration in about one half of all the regiments. I met about a dozen of regimental staff officers who heard of such a council for the first time, when I asked them if there was such an institution in their regiments.

#### 12.—*Intoxication.*

The sale of ardent spirits is now prohibited in all the camps by general orders; formerly, some sutlers were allowed to sell them to the men, with a permission from their captain. The habit of getting them out of camp, has been pretty effectually broken by general orders, closing all the bars in Cairo, Paducah, &c. These orders came very timely, as all the regiments are being paid off, and the temptation of spending money in drink seems to be much stronger among the men than one might suppose from the assertions of regimental and company commanders in relation to the temperate habits of their men. The number of men sent to the guard-house is very small in all regiments, and intoxication is the cause in most instances. I frequently had to express my astonishment at the small numbers given as the average of arrests. I am, however, not yet prepared to decide whether this startling fact is due to the excellent discipline and subordination of the men, or to excessive mildness of the officers, many of whom are decidedly more fond of popularity with the men and their friends at home, than of rigid discipline. Pedlers of eatables, and of non-intoxicating drinks, are allowed access to the men in most camps. I have endeavored, and I believe successfully in most instances, to introduce the principle of inspecting their articles before giving them permission to sell, into nearly all the camps.

13.—*Absences from Camp.*

Officers and men are kept strictly in camp, except when on duty or leave of absence, and the number of such leaves does not exceed on an average four to a company.

14.—*Recreation.*

The spirits of the men are excellent, as a general thing, but as to the means of keeping them in that state, they are left entirely to their own resources. Bands of music, all of very primitive skill in execution, are found in most regiments. The other means, however, usually resorted to by civilized society, to cheer up depressed spirits, are used either not at all, or at least not systematically.

15.—*Benefit Societies.*

The spirit of benevolence and mutual assistance manifested itself, up to this time, only in individuals, and has not yet assumed the form of an organization in any body of this command. The delayed payment of the troops has offered me very few opportunities to judge of the saving propensities of our regiments here, but I understand that Adams Express Co. has transmitted since the first pay-day, to the friends whom the soldiers left behind them, small sums of money, varying from fifteen to fifty dollars, in such numbers that the total amounts to fully one half the aggregate paid to all the soldiers here. It is believed that two thirds of the men send home at least half their pay. The allotment system is favorably received by all officers to whom I mentioned it, but has, as yet, not been practically carried out.

16.—*Discipline.*

The general discipline of the troops under my observation is slowly but steadily improving. The "armed mob" is being transformed into an efficient army, although an eye accustomed to the looks of well educated and drilled soldiers would still find many faults and deficiencies. Our officers are as far removed from a *punctilious* enforcement of the outward signs of military discipline as the men from their ready and constant observation. The rollicking independence of these useful spirits is too strong for the straight jacket of any martinet.

I have seen brigade parading but not manœuvering in this department; the battalion drill of most regiments is creditable, and what is still better, our troops have been victorious in all conflicts with the enemy in which they were engaged.

17.—*Medical Inspection on Enlistment.*

All the regiments, except those organized in Missouri, have undergone a medical inspection before entering the U. S. service, by surgeons employed for that purpose by their respective State governments; but it

was not thorough, and the subsequent inspections by the regimental surgeons were in almost all cases conducted with similar negligence. This explains the occurrence of very numerous applications for discharge on account of disability not acquired in the service—applications granted only in a small proportion, for fear of reducing the strength of regiments. From my own observations in camps and hospitals, I must come to the conclusion that one tenth of all the men would be rejected on a thorough and rigid examination. Up to this date, (Nov. 1st,) revaccination after enlistment has not been systematically practiced in a single regiment.

#### 18.—*Medical Officers.*

All the regimental medical officers, excepting those of the 8th and 11th Missouri, 7th and 23d Indiana, 30th and 31st Illinois Regiments, have undergone an examination by Medical Boards appointed by their respective governments for that purpose. All hold their commissions from the State Governors, except those of the two Missouri regiments. Most of them have practiced in the locality where the regiment was recruited, and are, doubtless, considered very good “family doctors” in their neighborhood. The number of thoroughly educated, well qualified and experienced *Surgeons* among them is, however, very small, judging from their previous history as given by themselves, and from what I have seen of, or heard from them in my personal intercourse with them. As they are, with few exceptions, the very men to whom the volunteers would have applied for assistance in cases of sickness or accident at home, the Government will certainly not be blamed by the officers and men for employing them as their medical attendants in the field, no matter what the value of their services may be when judged by the absolute standard of true science.

#### 19.—*Hospitals, Ambulances, &c.*

The whole force described in the 1st section, has three general and twenty-six regimental or corps hospitals. The general hospitals are: one at Cairo, one at Mound City, and one at Paducah. Of the last I shall not speak, as it was just being organized at the time of my visit to the regiments stationed at that place, and has since been moved from the old Marine Hospital building into the Court-House, the interior of which I have not seen. Brigade Surgeon Hewitt, the acting Medical Director of the Paducah Division, has the superintendence of this hospital, at which six Sisters of Charity act as nurses.

The general hospital at Mound City, the largest and most important of the three, is located in a row of twelve brick buildings of equal size and construction, excepting the first and last, which form projecting wings; with separate entrances, and no communication but the newly-



constructed wooden balconies in the rear, leading to the privies. The buildings are three stories high, with one room on each floor, 20x75x14, originally intended for stores. The two upper rooms are or will be used as wards; the lower for administration or store rooms, &c. At present, only eight of these wards are furnished with beds, containing three hundred patients. I say, purposely, furnished with beds, because I saw no other furniture in them, besides a few camp stools. Capt. Hawkins, U. S. A., lately arrived here to superintend the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, proceeded to procure everything that his Departments can furnish to a hospital. If he keeps this promise, his arrival will have been a perfect God-send to the medical officers, patients and attendants of this hospital, which, from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1, received more than five hundred patients, but not a single article necessary to the comfort of its patients or the convenience of their attendants from the Government besides beds, bedding, cooking and mess utensils, articles of food and drugs; not even a single candlestick could be procured. This destitution is due to either the poverty or negligence of the Quartermaster's Department. A large quantity of hospital clothing has been sent to the hospital by the ladies of New York and Cleveland, through the agency of the Sanitary Commission. Brig. Surgeon Franklin and three assistants have at present charge of this hospital. The general hospital at Cairo—a new three-story brick building, originally intended for hospital purposes, and of sufficient dimensions to hold one hundred and twenty patients—is supplied with everything that is absolutely necessary, and as many comforts as may be reasonably expected in a military hospital, including donations from the Soldiers' Aid Society in Cleveland, and others. The number of patients at present under treatment ranges from seventy-five to one hundred men.

Of the regimental hospitals, seven are in tents (on Bird's Point and at Fort Holt,) the rest in frame buildings at Cairo, Mound City, Cape Girardeau, and Paducah; the latter tolerably well suited for such a purpose in summer, but not in cold weather, being badly ventilated, and having no proper heating apparatus. Each hospital has the proper number of detailed men allowed by the regulations as nurses; only ten have female nurses of Miss Dix's corps. The supply of medicines and instruments is as liberal as the most energetic activity and foresight of a Medical Purveyor can make it; that of sheets, hospital dresses, &c., still deficient in many regiments. The U. S. A. Hospital Department has supplied a large number of sheets, bed ticks, pillow ticks and cases, blankets (over 2,000;) and the following articles have been distributed by myself to the hospitals as gifts of patriotic Ladies' Societies: sheets 680, shirts 902, drawers 290, pillows 55, pillow ticks 90, pillow cases



456, towels 333, handkerchiefs 168, bed gowns 24, woollen socks 150, soft shoes 42, pads 13, bed ticks 25, two boxes of lint and bandages, &c. Jellies and other delicacies are greatly needed in all the hospitals, the previous donations of these articles being completely exhausted. Two ambulances for the whole force and an average of two stretchers for each regiment, make up the apparatus for field service; it is, therefore, no wonder that the drilling of the Ambulance Corps has not yet begun in any regiment or brigade.

#### 20.—*Prevailing Diseases.*

The prevailing diseases during July, August, and September, were diarrhoea and dysentery, malarious fevers and measles; in October, malarious fevers, measles, catarrhal and rheumatic affections. In August 310 were sent to general hospital; in September, 603; in October, about 800. The total of sick men (taking the regiments from which complete monthly reports are in my possession, as a basis of calculation) was in July 2,939, in August 5,820, in September 9,150, and in October 8,900; the differences being explained partially by fluctuations in the strength of the force, partially by the absolute increase in the amount of sickness. The number of serious cases in the regimental hospitals is very great. Most regiments have hospital accommodations for an average of forty patients. Surgeons and men are equally averse to availing themselves of the advantages (?) of the general hospitals; and as a rule, only those cases which cannot be accommodated in the regimental hospital, on account of its being crowded with patients, are transferred to general hospital. In some regiments it has been the policy of the Surgeons to rid themselves of cases threatening a fatal result; hence the great mortality in general hospitals as compared with the regimental; and hence again an increased aversion of the men against the former. That this policy has increased the cost of our hospital department enormously, cannot be denied; but I am inclined to the opinion that it has led to some good results, of which I may speak hereafter. As soon as the regiments take the field, it will, of course, have to be totally abandoned. The contagious or infectious diseases were measles, mumps, and a few cases of typhus. If we except measles, the proper precautions were taken to prevent their spreading.

I have examined the complete morning reports of eight regiments for July, August and September, from which the daily average of sickness (new cases) appear as follows: July 12, August 15, September 20, to a regiment of 900 men. The differences between individual regiments are, however, very great. In August, for instance, we find the mean ratio of sickness in the

11th Illinois Regiment.....	29	per cent.	8th Illinois Regiment.....	47	per cent.
9th " " .....	33	"	22d " " .....	63	"
12th " " .....	33	"	18th " " .....	143	"
7th " " .....	37	"			

Even taking into consideration the fact that the first five regiments were during that month composed of old three-month men and newly arrived recruits, while all the men of the 22d and 18th were just passing through the third month of their service, the most dangerous to the health of the soldier, according to the experience of Army Surgeons, we cannot help looking for some other cause or causes of such glaring differences; and we find them not in differences of diet, drink, or locality, but in the different observance of the rules of camp police and military hygiene. The 11th and 12th, standing among the healthiest of the list, were encamped on Bird's Point, like the 18th and 22d, four or five hundred yards removed from the entrenchments, within which the latter were cooped up, using the same food and drink; but the camp police and sanitary discipline of these regiments differed as widely as the relative amount of sickness among their men. In the same month (August) we had a total absolute increase of 884 cases of sickness over those in July, although the number of the force diminished from 7,227 to 6,103 during the same period; while these two regiments (18th and 22d) alone show in their monthly reports an increase of 874 cases in August over those in July, or only ten less than the increase in the whole force during the same period! These figures, compared with the description I gave of the camps of these typical regiments in my detailed returns, speak volumes for the value of sanitary science to army men.

An examination of the Surgeons' reports from these and some other regiments, shows the following ratios of sickness and mortality among them:

	July.	August.	September.
Taken sick of the whole force.....	40.66 p. c.	62.73 p. c.	61.06 p. c.
Died of the whole force, including accidents,	0.249	0.377	0.470
Died of the sick, including accidents.....	0.612	0.601	0.770
Died of the whole force, excluding accidents,	0.152	0.295	0.448
Died of the sick, excluding accidents.....	0.372	0.473	0.734

The rapid rise in the mortality among the sick, with exclusion of accidents, from 47 to 83 in 10,000, from August to September, is due to the greater prevalence of typhoid, typhus, and severe malarious fevers. The October reports will show a still greater increase.

I could point out a great many more interesting facts embodied in these reports, were I not afraid to make this review too lengthy for your perusal. I send you a consolidated abstract of them for your own use.

The general health of the troops was improving in October, as far as the mere number of cases of sickness is concerned; the serverity of their character was, however, increasing.

21.—*Preventive Duty of Surgeons*

The number of Surgeons who fully understood their responsibility as health officers to the regiments is very small, judging, not from the answers to questions 168-172 of my returns, but from the facts connected with their duties as such before my eyes. The adoption of General McClellan's orders in reference to the duties of Brigade Surgeons, by Gens. Grant and Smith, and the arrival of four active and intelligent officers of that grade, will, I believe, make up now for any deficiencies of the Surgical Staff in this respect. Drilling before breakfast had been abandoned in most instances, and is prohibited now altogether by an order from Gen Grant. The average number of hours the men are on drill daily is five.

22.—*Arms and Accoutrements.*

With the exception of six regiments, provided with rifles and rifled muskets, all the infantry force is armed with the old smooth-bore muskets, pronounced to be bad, and detested by nearly all the men. The weight of the knapsacks for heavy marching order is limited in almost all the regiments to twenty-five pounds. The cartridge boxes are sustained by shoulder straps.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to nearly all the commanders of divisions, brigades and regiments, and the great majority of the Medical Staff, for many acts of courtesy and valuable assistance in the discharge of my duties, but especially to Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding U. S. forces in the S. E. Department of Missouri, &c., Dr. James Simmons, Medical Director, and Dr. J. P. Taggart, Medical Purveyor at Cairo, who have treated me throughout my stay here with the kindest consideration.

P. AIGNER, M. D.

CAIRO, ILL., Nov. 2, 1861.

In the probability that a large force will be located at this point during the winter, and that military operations will here be rather increased than diminished, I would suggest that the work of the Sanitary Commission should be placed on a somewhat more permanent foundation by the establishment of a depot of supplies to which recourse may be had in any emergency, and where the drafts of the Inspector may be honored at sight. Such an arrangement would involve but a trifling expense to the Commission, and would materially increase its efficiency at this point.

## MISSOURI.

A vast amount of extraneous aid has been rendered to the Government in the care of the sick among the troops in Missouri within three months past. During that time, Dr. Buel, agent of the Commission, has continued to reside in St. Louis, has inspected many camps in the vicinity



of the city and farther westward, and has distributed, to those wanting them, a large aggregate of hospital supplies, forwarded to him from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and New York. The Rev. Robert Colyer has also rendered most efficient aid to the Commission by devoting a number of weeks to visiting the camps in the interior of the State, and in the care of the sick in St. Louis.

The "Western Sanitary Commission," under the authority of Gen. Fremont, about three months since, commenced the establishment in St. Louis of hospitals for the reception of such sick as might be transported thither from the columns advancing southwest and west. Latterly their self-imposed duties have largely increased, and in co-operation with the medical authorities of the army, they have provided most comfortable quarters for about 2,500 sick, their hospitals being now nearly full. The appended report upon these hospitals, made November 20th, by Dr. Buel, will give some idea of their extent, capacity, and completeness; it was my privilege, soon after the commencement of their operations, to meet the Commission, and examine the provisions they had made, and were then making, for the accommodation of the sick. The evidence of their intelligence, industry, and philanthropy, as furnished by the hospitals established under their supervision, were then in the highest degree gratifying to me, and as more fully exhibited in their present condition, entitles them to the gratitude and respect of the whole country. The arduous and gratuitous labors of the Western Sanitary Commission, in the establishment and care of the hospitals in St. Louis, have necessarily engrossed most of their time and attention, and the inspection of camps, and the prevention of disease among the troops west of the Mississippi, which, in their generous self-devotion, they at one time assumed, has proved to be beyond their power. In these circumstances, it has been determined to extend into Missouri the same thorough system of sanitary measures now being carried out through all the other divisions of our army. An Associate Secretary and an experienced Inspector have therefore been sent to St. Louis, who will, in co-operation with the Western Sanitary Commission, in the shortest time possible, investigate fully the condition and wants of the troops in Missouri, and promptly supply all needed material aid from our abundant stores.

#### REPORT ON HOSPITALS OF ST. LOUIS, NOV. 20, 1861.

The military hospitals of St. Louis consist of three large hospitals, one receiving house, one measles hospital, one small-pox hospital, and one small hospital at Benton Barracks.

The first I shall mention is that in order of time first opened, in a new building constructed as a House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents, but never occupied for that purpose. It stands upon an elevated piece of ground, about four miles southward of the city, and about a mile west



of the river; is admirably adapted to hospital purposes, as much so as if expressly constructed for that use; contains six large and lofty wards well lighted and ventilated, about one hundred feet by sixty, capable of comfortably accommodating about eighty patients each. There are other smaller wards, making, in the aggregate, room for six hundred beds. The *personel* of the hospital consists of the Medical Staff, one Surgeon-in-chief, Dr. Bailey, U. S. A., and five assistants, who are mostly, I believe, from civil life, one apothecary and assistant, one elerk, eight stewards, eight ward masters, thirty-one male nurses, fourteen female nurses, besides cooks, laundresses, and laborers, whose number varies with the number of patients in the house. The female nurses are Sisters of Charity, and from personal observation as well as the testimony of the patients, I am satisfied that they perform their duties with great kindness, zeal, and assiduity. The whole aspect of the hospital presents an air of neatness and comfort, and I am satisfied that the patients are as comfortable and as well cared for as the inmates of any large hospital in the world. The most prevalent and fatal diseases are typhoid fevers and dysentery. The greatest number of deaths are from the first-mentioned disease. I did not learn the exaet number. There are but few surgical cases at present.

The second hospital in the order of opening, is that on the corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, in the heart of the city. This building contains five stories besides the basement, having two fronts of about eighty feet each. It was designed for stores, offices, and apartments, contains a very large number of rooms, none of which are of very large size, the largest number of beds in any one being about twenty-five. This has its advantages and disadvantages. Large wards are more easily ventilated, smaller ones give a more perfect classification. The building has been well fitted with baths, water-closets, and heating apparatus. It is thoroughly warmed and ventilated throughout. The present number of patients is 450, number of beds, 550.

*Personnel*—Medical Staff: Surgeon-in-chief, Dr. Hodgins, of St. Louis; six assistants, all from civil life; two apothecaries; male nurses, 50; female nurses, 13; ward masters, 5; cooks, 6; laborers, 27.

In this hospital the female nurses are Protestant women, and appear to be fully equal in the discharge of their duties to the Catholic Sisters at the House of Refuge. The remarks made in reference to the comfort and cleanliness at that institution, are equally applicable to this. They are all that could be desired. This hospital contains more surgical cases, many of the wounded from Springfield and Lexington having been brought here. Many cases of severe injury, which seemed nearly hopeless, are now in a fair way of recovery without loss of limb.

The third and last of the larger hospitals is on Fourth street, near its northern termination. The building is of the same style and description as that on Fifth street; somewhat larger, having six hundred beds, and at present four hundred and sixty patients. The number of physicians, nurses, and attendants is about the same. All the arrangements are in the same style of neatness and comfort.

*Measles Hospital*, corner O'Fallon street and Franklin avenue, one hundred and fifty beds, all occupied. Medical attendants, two; nurses

and other attendants, same relative numbers as in the large establishments.

*Small-pox Hospital*—Beds, fifty; patients, five.

*Small Hospital*, adjoining Benton Barracks, designed to receive such cases as occur among the soldiers there. Beds one hundred and thirty, all occupied; medical attendants, two; nurses and other attendants, same proportion as the others.

*Receiving House*, situated immediately adjoining the R. R. Depot of the Western and Southwestern Railroads, connecting with Jefferson City, Rolla, &c., over which most of the patients arrive. The trains come in mostly at a late hour of the evening. The object of this building is to make the patients comfortable for night immediately on their arrival. It has one hundred and twenty beds, medical attendants, nurses, cooks and cooking facilities, so that every new-comer can be furnished with a warm supper. In the morning they are sent in ambulances, and distributed among the different establishments according to diseases under which they are suffering, or wherever there is most room. As a connecting link between this and the other hospitals in this city, and points in the interior to which the sick and wounded are sent, they have railroad ambulances or hospital cars, filled with beds, berths and blankets, provided with cooking stoves each, and one or two nurses, so that the patients are made perfectly comfortable, provided with warm food and drinks, and thus make the transit with slight fatigue and inconvenience.

It will thus be seen that the system of Military Hospitals in St. Louis is very extensive and complete. It is also economical, the expense per man being but the trifling sum of \$5.00 per month in addition to his rations. Probably this amount is far more than saved to the Government, by the shorter time spent, where the facilities for recovery are so great, setting aside what is due to humanity and the patriotism of our brave volunteers.

These arrangements have all been made under a voluntary committee of prominent and well-known citizens, the most active of whom are the Rev. Dr. Eliot, Dr. Johnson, and James C. Yeatman, Esq., who have given themselves to this labor of love with a zeal and devotion worthy of all praise. Total number of beds 2,200; total number of patients 1,600.

W. P. BUELL, M. D., *Inspec. U. S. San. Com.*

## INDIANA, MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, AND IOWA.

It will be noticed that in the preceding pages no mention has been made of the operations of the Sanitary Commission in these States, but it must not be inferred from this omission that nothing has been done among all this warm-hearted and loyal people for the great cause in which we are engaged; but there are no troops permanently stationed in any of these States, nor has the efficient aid which we are receiving from this source yet crystallized into such a definite form as to be satisfactorily reported. I am happy to be able to say, however, that in all these States we have influential and patriotic associate members, who are doing and will do good work for the sick soldiers; and Ladies' Aid Societies,



which are forwarding quantities of hospital stores to be distributed by our agents in Western Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri. Among those to whom we are specially indebted for favors of this kind should be mentioned Mrs. Geo. Duffield, of Detroit, Rev. H. A. Reid and Mrs. L. P. Harvey, of Wisconsin, who have been most active and useful in distributing supplies furnished by the ladies of their respective States.

To give a resume, then, of the condition and wants of the troops in the Valley of the Mississippi, and the duty done and to be done by the Sanitary Commission, we have to congratulate ourselves—first, upon the marked amelioration of the sanitary condition of both camps and hospitals since my last report; second, on the general high character of the medical officers having the care of the troops, most of them having passed a searching examination by a competent Board appointed by the Governors of the States in which the regiments were recruited; third, upon the uniformly friendly relations and hearty co-operation existing between the medical and military officers of the different departments with the Sanitary Commission and its agents, with a general high appreciation of the importance of its aims, and approval of its methods; fourth, on the active and efficient co-operation of a large number of associate members of the Commission, who have formed Branch Commissions in the principal cities, which, by their earnest efforts and their moral influence, are affording most important aid in our work; fifth, upon the organization of a number of Auxiliary Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies, who are busily engaged in the preparation of hospital stores, whose bounty so liberally bestowed has alleviated much suffering, saved many lives, and enabled us to accomplish good which it would have been impossible to effect without their aid; sixth, on the liberality of the managers of railroad and steamboat lines and express companies, who have, by the transportation of stores free, or at diminished rates, greatly added to our means of usefulness.

On the other hand, we have to deplore the continued operation of avoidable causes of suffering and disease which call for our warmest sympathy and most earnest efforts, and which will, in the future, task our energies to the utmost, and exhaust all our resources in their removal.

While the present percentage of sickness and mortality continues among our volunteers, we, as a people, stand convicted of inhumanity and bad economy, a wastefulness of the doubly *vital* element on the present war—human life. We can never consistently suspend our labors till this charge can be truthfully denied.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,

*Assoc. Secretary.*

**No. 37.**

Report of the Cleveland Branch. 40 pp.

(Nov. 30, 1861.)





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 38.

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## REPORT

ON THE

## Condition of Camps and Hospitals

AT

CAIRO AND VICINITY, PADUCAH AND ST. LOUIS,

By REV. W. W. PATTON AND R. N. ISHAM, M. D.

Of the Chicago Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission,

OCTOBER, 1861.

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Rooms of Chicago Sanitary Commission,

BRANCH OF U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,

No. 41 WABASH AVENUE,

November 26th, 1861.

TO THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION:

GENTS:—The following Report is based upon observations made by a Committee of our number, appointed for that purpose, who have recently visited and carefully examined the Camps and Hospitals at Cairo, Bird's Point, Camp Holt, Mound City, Paducah, and St. Louis. Believing it to present a just picture of the sanitary condition of the troops at these localities at the time of the inspection, in accordance with your request it is respectfully submitted for publication.

MARK SKINNER, Pres't.

O. H. TIFFANY, D. D., Vice Pres't.

E. W. BLATCHFORD, Cor. Sec.

W. W. PATTON.

RALPH N. ISHAM, M. D.

JAS. WARD.

JOHN W. FOSTER.

H. E. SEELYE, Sec. and Treas.

## E X T R A C T S

FROM THE

## Report of the Committee to Visit Camps and Hospitals.

The Committee appointed to visit the Camps and Hospitals at and near Cairo, and also by personal inspection and conference to ascertain the plan of operations pursued by the Sanitary Commission of St. Louis, beg leave to report—

That as soon as practicable, they entered upon the duties assigned, and visited Cairo, Bird's Point, Camp Holt, Mound City, Paducah, and St. Louis, making diligent inspection of Camps and Hospitals, and seeking information from all intelligent persons, official and unofficial. They are happy to state that every facility was afforded them by the officers of the army of all grades, and that the expenses of travel, so far as conveyances were concerned, were assumed by the United States Government. The Committee would express their particular indebtedness to the kind assistance of Rev. Mr. FOLSOM, City Missionary at Cairo; Dr. AIGNER, representative at the same place of the United States Sanitary Commission; to Drs. HEWITT and HARTSHORN, the Medical Director and Brigade Surgeon at Paducah; and to Capt. J. CHEEVER, of St. Louis. Without the services of these gentlemen, which were freely volunteered, the labors of the Committee would have been much retarded, and far less satisfactory.

The Camps and Hospitals visited by your Committee, pertained to the following bodies of troops, to wit: the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 22d, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 40th, and 41st Regiments of *Illinois* Volunteers, with the Chicago Light Artillery and Capt. Buel's Battery, the men of the latter being principally from Illinois; the 2d and 7th Regiments of *Iowa* Volunteers; the 11th and 23d *Indiana* Volunteers, and the 8th *Missouri*, besides numerous Regiments represented miscellaneous in the General Hospitals at St. Louis. The results of their observations and inquiries may better be stated in connection with the several localities visited than by a tedious catalogical and somewhat repetitious account of the separate Regiments.

The first point to which attention was directed was

CAIRO, ILLINOIS,

where are encamped about five thousand troops. The Committee called upon Gen. McClernand and obtained his approval of their proposed inquiries; and also upon Dr. Simmons, the Medical Director of that department, and Dr. Brinton, his temporary assistant; after which, they visited, in turn, the Regimental Hospitals and the Post Hospital, with the exception of one Regiment of Cavalry. The general sanitary condition of the Camps and Hospitals at Cairo was not what it should be, in view of the medical force on the ground, the time that the troops have been stationed there, and the repeated visits of members of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. In many cases, the sick were crowded into narrow quarters, in old and dirty buildings, not properly lighted and ventilated, and with a scanty supply of articles necessary to comfort and recovery. There was a marked difference discernible, however, between the Hospitals under the charge of different surgeons, some appearing to have all that was essential, and others to lack nearly everything. In very few cases, however, were the cots furnished with any kind of mattresses or pillows, a blanket taking the place of the former, and the soldier's overcoat or knapsack forming a rough substitute for the latter. Patients complained of being cold at night and sore in their bodies, from the thinness and hardness of their beds. From a lack of shirts and drawers, as well as hospital blankets, and also of stoves for warming the wards, the sick wore their ordinary clothing. The supply of ticks (to be filled with straw) at the Medical Purveyor's is for double cots, while the Hospitals are furnished almost exclusively with single cots. As the most unfavorable case, the Committee would specify the Regimental Hospital of ———, Col. ———, Surgeon ———,\* in which were ninety patients, in crowded and filthy rooms, with a great lack of bed vessels and spittoons, the most of the beds being supplied with a disgusting heap of sawdust on the floor, for purposes of expectoration. Some of the sick lay upon hay on the floor; a foetid odor pervaded the ward; the convalescents were huddled together in groups, wherever a vacant corner could be found. There were no shirts nor drawers, and the men, however ill, and though near to death, were in their ordinary clothes, with their overcoats for pillows! And this Regiment was encamped in its own district, where the privates and officers resided, and

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\* The names are suppressed, for the present, in the printed Report, to give opportunity for reform.



could easily have appealed to the benevolent in behalf of the sick. Plainly, the surgeon was ill-informed as to his duty and rights, or was grossly inefficient, and the officers heedless of the condition of the men. There had been two hundred cases of measles in the Regiment, and sixty such cases were then in the Hospital, accounting, in part, for its crowded condition.

Another instructive case, is that of the ———, Col. ———, Surgeon ———.\* This Regiment has been noted for its sick-list, as many as two hundred and sixty cases having been reported at one time. There are now about fifty cases in Hospital. The building was small, but very neat and clean, and the Surgeon appeared earnest and intelligent as to his duty, but complained that the general officers of the Regiment manifested no sympathies with his labors, and gave no heed to his suggestions. In the frequent removals, he had never been consulted as to the location of the camps, and had been over-ruled when he had offered remonstrance, as, for instance, in Missouri, where, on one occasion, the camp was placed by the side of a swamp, in which cases were sunk, and the water distributed to the men! Your Committee visited the Regiment, and found them at dinner, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; nobody ordering the time of the meals, and the cooking being done by the men, in turn, of each small mess of ten or twelve, instead of cooks being hired for the entire Regiment, or at least for each Company. They lodged in board barracks, which had been previously used by other Regiments, and needed to be thoroughly cleaned, aired and whitewashed within and without. Eight or ten feet back of the barracks ran an open drain, full of filth. In fact, nothing was wanted to ensure disease. The officers were represented as mutually at variance, and busy only in strife and selfish ambitions.

The Post Hospital, under Dr. Burke, has just taken possession of a new brick building, where suitable accommodations will soon be provided. At present, the patients lack many things essential to comfort, but the general appearance of the Hospital is creditable.

Calling at the office of the Medical Purveyor (Dr. Taggart), your Committee learned that there was a scant supply of blankets for Hospital use, and also of single cot ticks, and, just at present, of medical stores generally. Also, that the Medical Department in Cairo could not, in the emergency, draw upon the very abundant supplies supposed to be at Chicago, under charge of Dr. Blaney, the Medical Purveyor; though it has since appeared that these supplies were greatly overrated as to their

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\* The names are suppressed, as before.

quantity, and that they were deposited in Chicago simply for the field service of Regiments going to the war, and not for general Hospital purposes.

Dr. Simmons, the Medical Director, stated that he was out of supplies, but was expecting them in a week or ten days. He kindly mentioned the articles which it would be well to secure, in addition to those furnished by the Government, of which a list will be given in another place, based upon information obtained from many sources.

The Committee had frequent and valuable interviews with Dr. Aigner, for the present resident Inspector of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, who accompanied the Committee during one afternoon, and whose familiarity with the condition of the troops was of essential aid. He regarded the formation of the Chicago Commission as of prime importance, and his hints as to the work to be done by it are embodied elsewhere.

The Committee next proceeded to

#### BIRD'S POINT, MISSOURI,

where were seven Regiments encamped. These were, on the whole, in fair condition, as to location, tents, sanitary arrangements, and condition of Hospitals, though lacking many desirable comforts. One Regiment only (the Iowa 2d) was in a specially sick condition, having 255 on the sick list, thirty-seven of these in one Company. It has since been ordered to St. Louis, to recruit, and has proceeded thither.

From Bird's Point the Committee passed to the Camp at

#### FORT HOLT, KENTUCKY,

where they found but two Regiments, which were well encamped, and enjoyed good health; their few sick were well cared for, in essential respects, by surgeons who seemed to understand their duty.

The next place visited was

#### MOUND CITY, ILLINOIS,

seven miles up the Ohio River from Cairo. A single Regiment is stationed here, into whose Hospital, under the care of Dr. Stahl, the Committee went, and found a satisfactory state of affairs. \* \* \* \*  
At this place the "Simmons' General Hospital" has been established for all the troops of that region, and a block of six or eight brick stores is

being accommodated to Hospital purposes as fast and as thoroughly as the scanty supply of money by the United States Government will allow. The Brigade Surgeon, Dr. Franklin, seems to be intelligent, and active in his work. There are two hundred and thirty patients at present, but the number will soon double or treble. There is great need of sheets, comforters, blankets, shirts, and drawers. There are but three hundred sheets at present, or only one-quarter of the least number necessary.

Next the Committee proceeded to

#### PADUCAH, KENTUCKY,

where there are about eight thousand troops. One of the Committee (Dr. Isham) was unable to remain longer than a few hours, during which he visited one Camp, that of the Illinois 12th, Col. McArthur; Surgeon, Dr. Wardner, of this city—a model Camp in all particulars, (as was also the 11th Indiana, Col. McGuinness; Surgeon, Dr. Fry,) and, as a consequence, with very few sick men, and those convalescent. The remaining member of the Committee made a very thorough visitation of all the Camps and Hospitals, kindly accompanied throughout by Drs. Hewit and Hartshorn. The condition of Sanitary affairs was creditable in every Regiment but one, which was changing its quarters that very day, in order to inaugurate a better system. This favorable state of things was owing to the presence of an excellent Medical Staff, and to the organization of the surgeons into a Medical Society, which meets twice a week, to consult upon professional and official duties and measures.

The Post Hospital is in the spacious and beautifully-situated Court-House. The main ward is fifty-nine feet long, forty feet wide, and thirty feet high, and the next thirty by forty feet, and of the same height. The others were all lofty and commodious. The nurses are “Sisters of the Holy Cross,” and all the arrangements are of a complete character. It is attended by the Regimental Surgeons, two at a time, for a fortnight, aided by Dr. Kay, the resident Assistant Surgeon. Dr. Hartshorn was at present superintending it. During the month of September there were treated in all the Hospitals at Paducah, two thousand nine hundred cases, with but twenty-one deaths. The diseases were measles, camp diarrhœa, and dysentery, pneumonia and low fevers taking a typhoid character.



In some of the camps the tents were two small and crowded, and of very poor material. But one, as far as remembered, was supplied throughout with the admirable "Fremont Tent." The men of Capt. Buel's Battery were suffering, even to many cases of illness, from exposure, through want of thick clothing, they having only the summer supply. Your Committee took measures, subsequently, to bring the matter to the notice of the proper authorities at Cairo and St. Louis.

Before speaking of the visit of the Committee to St. Louis, which was mainly for the purposes of consultation, they will state some of the

#### CAUSES OF THE EXISTING DESTITUTION.

The U. S. Government professes to supply the real wants of the soldier, in health and in illness, and honestly means and seek to do so; but an actual deficiency of comforts for the sick arises at present—

1.—From the unexpected fact and extent of the war, which took the nation by surprise, and found the Government wholly unprepared for the supply of so vast an army as it has been compelled to call into the field. With the utmost energy, there must be a temporary deficiency in some articles, and a want of money in the hands of the Quartermasters and Medical Purveyors, to purchase necessary supplies on the spot.

2.—From supplies not being always in the place where they will be most available to those who need them. As a matter of fact, immense stores may be accumulated at one point, when there is a scarcity at another; while there seems to be no official method of transferring them from one point to the other. There may be no fault in this; and the blame may be in the negligence of the Medical Director in not making his requisitions upon the East in due time, or it may lie in a lack of transportation, owing to the crowded condition of the railroads.

3.—From the ignorance and inefficiency of surgeons, who know not how to draw their supplies, nor to what they are entitled. This is a very common difficulty, and arises from the manner in which medical as well as military officers obtain their appointments.

4.—From the fact that the Government does not undertake to furnish various articles that are useful to the sick, especially when convalescing, both in the way of food and clothing.

5.—It ought also to be added, for the information of those who have sent supplies to part of the Hospitals now reported destitute, that some



of the articles sent, such as shirts, are worn away by needy, convalescent soldiers on their departure; and others, such as sheets, have been allowed by the surgeons to lie unwashed, and thus unused.

In view of these various occasions of deficiency, your Committee are able, as the result of their observations and inquiries, to recommend an appeal to the benevolent public to supply the following articles for the 1,100 soldiers\* now sick in the various places named.

**BEDDING.**—Sheets, pillows and pillow-cases; mattress ticks, for cots, 30 inches wide; comforters and blankets.

**CLOTHING.**—Flannel shirts, (buttoning all the way down in front,) flannel drawers, with a string around the waist; slippers, plain dressing gowns or wrappers, burial clothes, oiled silk, clean rags, chintz bed covers, handkerchiefs, woolen socks and mittens, and fine tooth combs.

**FOOD.**—Jellies, canned and dried fruits, and Sage for tea.

**NO Wines and Liquors.**—The U. S. Government supplies a stated quantity of brandy and wine to each Surgeon, sufficient for ordinary Hospital consumption. When an uncommon number of special cases requiring alcoholic stimulants is on hand, the Surgeon can make a special requisition for the necessary supply. The Surgeon is required to account strictly to the Government for all the liquors which *it* furnishes. It is better, therefore, that *none should be furnished from private sources*, as it is liable to be improperly used, and, in some instances, has been.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Sponges, (large,) low tables, or desks, to be set on top of the beds of convalescent patients, to lay food or books or writing paper on, chess-men, draughts, and other amusing games free from gambling uses; back numbers of Harper's and Atlantic magazines; pictorial papers; *recent* secular and religious papers; also books, secular and religious, of all kinds, that are entertaining and useful, and stationery.

#### IMPORTANCE OF A CENTRAL ORGANIZATION.

The necessity of a central organization in this State, to receive and forward such articles, was impressed upon your Committee, by all that they saw and heard, as the only method of securing local organizations in all the towns, and thus eliciting the needed supplies, and of making an honest and intelligent distribution of articles, according to the actual wants of the different hospitals. At present, the supply is imperfect in character, and very intermittent and uncertain; is frequently sent to an

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\* The number is now largely increased.

inappropriate locality, and sometimes falls into incompetent or dishonest hands. Not seldom the donors omit to pre-pay the freight, and sometimes a box is received at a Hospital with freight charges exceeding the value of the contents! All such difficulties may be avoided by a central agency, and such the officers and soldiers desire to see established. The Committee would add a word upon

#### THE CONNECTION OF HEALTH AND MORALS IN THE ARMY.

The U. S. Government very properly recognizes the importance of moral and religious influences in the army, by the appointment of a Chaplain to each Regiment, and the forbidding, by army regulations, sundry immoralities among the troops. The wisdom of this consists, not merely in the national recognition of Christianity thus manifested, nor yet simply in the spiritual improvement of the soldiers and the protection from ruinous influences of the thousands of young men drawn away from the restraints of home; but also in its relation to the physical and mental condition of the army most favorable to military efficiency. Vice of every kind saps the health and destroys the discipline of an army. Hence the officers, from the general in command downward, should give their full sanction to all appropriate moral and religious influences that can be introduced into camp life. By example and the careful arrangement of military plans and methods, they should lead the army to respect the Sabbath and public worship, and should suppress profanity, intemperance, gambling, and licentiousness. Your Committee are sorry to report, however, that this department of duty, so important even in a sanitary and disciplinary view, is greatly neglected, especially as regards the observance of the Sabbath and the suppression of profanity and licentiousness. What they saw with their own eyes, and heard with their own ears, everywhere, was sufficient to fill them with grief and alarm. They will not enter into particulars in this Report, but they could not satisfy their consciences as members of the Sanitary Commission, without alluding to this prolific source of disease and military weakness.

The Chairman of your Committee, alone, was able to visit

#### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,

his associate, greatly to the regret of both, finding it impossible to remain absent longer from his professional duties. The Sanitary Committee of St. Louis consists of the following well-known gentlemen: James E. Ycatman, Esq.; C. S. Greeley, Esq.; J. B. Johnson, M. D.; George Partridge, Esq., and Rev. Dr. Wm. G. Elliot, whose labors are

unremitting, and whose work is on a vast scale, and of the greatest importance. It was the privilege of your Committee to attend one of their meetings, and to receive courteous attention. They are independent of the United States Sanitary Commission at Washington, though co-operative therewith. They have under their charge several hospitals, as follows:

1. One situated on the corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, in a new marble building, approximating in size the "Sherman House" in this city, built for stores and offices, but never before occupied. This will accommodate about six hundred patients, and is nearly full. It is admirably fitted up (as are all the Hospitals under their care) with every convenience needed by the sick, as your Committee learned by personal inspection. In this building the Sanitary Committee have their office.

2. A second, nearly as large, in a new building erected for a hotel, but not before used, on Fourth street, between Morgan and Franklin Avenues. This also will accommodate about six hundred patients, and has now three hundred and forty.

3. A building, also just finished, and intended for a new House of Refuge, which will accommodate five hundred, and nearly that number is now there.

4. "The Good Samaritan Hospital" building, used by the Homœopathic practitioners of Medicine, who have kindly accommodated the sick soldiers. It will receive one hundred and fifty, and has now one hundred and twenty.

5. A building opposite the Fair Grounds, which will afford room for one hundred and twenty, and now contains eighty.

6. Besides these buildings, part of the City Hospital is used, and there are about eighty soldiers there.

7. Yet further, an arrangement has just been made to relieve these Hospitals from the numbers crowding in, by appropriating a portion of the barracks at Camp Benton, in the city near the Fair Grounds, to receive the convalescent patients to the number of one thousand. The number of patients in all the Hospitals is now about sixteen hundred.

It must be understood that these are all General Hospitals, and are additional to the small Regimental Hospitals (one to each Regiment) usually located in tents, and containing from twenty to forty patients of the less alarming type. The attending physicians of these general Hospitals are principally detailed by the Medical Director as Special Assistant Surgeons, from the Medical Faculty of the city; only about



six out of twenty being Army Surgeons. Sick and wounded soldiers have been sent to St. Louis from all parts of the State, but vast numbers of them are now scattered through the interior towns in a suffering condition.

The ladies of St. Louis have afforded great assistance by their donations and their personal attendance in the Hospitals. smoothing the pillow of the sick and dying soldier, writing letters to his friends, and cheering the sad-hearted by words and deeds of love. Said a sick soldier to one of the Sanitary Committee, the day your Committee was there: "We have had an angel in our ward this morning; a good lady came with a large basket of flowers, and presented each soldier with a bouquet, and we are all so happy!" And there lay one poor fellow on his back, who had lost both arms, and on his breast, close up to his chin, was his bouquet, where he could inhale its fragrance, while his face told more than words could, how grateful he was to the giver.

Many boxes of articles for the sick have been received from New England, and also from Illinois, designated for the Illinois troops in Missouri, and some money has been contributed in a public way; but the incidental expenses, not included in Government supplies, have been met by private solicitations.

Such is a brief account of the action of your Committee and the results of their inquiries. A memorandum is attached, giving the number of the sick and wounded in each Hospital visited. Minute statements on various points touched upon in this document will be given orally, based on memoranda taken upon the spot, and embodying the observations of your Committee and the testimony and conclusions of competent witnesses and judges whom it was their privilege to meet.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

WM. W. PATTON,  
RALPH N. ISHAM, M. D.,  
*Committee of Visitation.*

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 31, 1861.



# APPENDIX.

## HOSPITAL MEMORANDA BY REGIMENTS.

- ILLINOIS 7TH.—Col. Cook; Surgeons, Metcalf and Hamilton. *Camp Holt, Ky.* 16 patients.
- ILLINOIS 8TH.—Col. Oglesby; Surgeon, Trowbridge. Two Hospitals. 30 patients at *Cairo, Ill.*, and 20 at *Bird's Point, Mo.*
- ILLINOIS 9TH.—Col. Mercer; Surgeon, Hamilton. About 30 patients. *Paducah, Ky.*
- ILLINOIS 10TH.—Col. Morgan; Surgeon, Stahl. About 30 patients. *Mound City, Ill.*
- ILLINOIS 11TH.—Col. Wallace; Surgeon, Long. 38 patients. *Bird's Point, Mo.*
- ILLINOIS 12TH.—Col. McArthur; Surgeon, Wardner. 38 patients. *Paducah.*
- ILLINOIS 18TH.—Col. Lawler; Surgeon, Davis. 50 patients. *Cairo, Ill.*
- ILLINOIS 22D.—Col. Dougherty; Surgeon, Coatesworth. 25 patients. *Bird's Point, Mo.*
- ILLINOIS 28TH.—Col. Johnson; Surgeon, Bringerst. 20 patients, (75 on sick list.) *Bird's Point, Mo.*
- ILLINOIS 29TH.—Col. Rearden; Surgeon, Guard. 40 patients. *Cairo, Ill.*
- ILLINOIS 30TH.—Col. Fouck; Surgeon, Gordon. 21 patients. *Cairo, Ill.*
- ILLINOIS 31ST.—Col. Logan; Surgeon, Million. 90 patients. *Cairo, Ill.*
- ILLINOIS 40TH.—Col. Hicks; Surgeon, Thompson. 33 patients. *Paducah.*
- ILLINOIS 41ST.—Col. Pugh; Surgeon, Gray. 15 patients, *Paducah, Ky.*
- CHICAGO LIGHT ARTILLERY, Captain Buel's Battery, &c., &c. (Detached Companies.) Surgeon, Bowman. 27 patients. *Paducah, Ky.*
- IOWA 2ND.—Col. Tuttle; Surgeon and Assistant both sick and absent. 20 patients in Regimental Hospital, but 60 others in Post Hospital, and 195 on the sick list, 37 in one Company. Gone since to *St. Louis, Mo.*
- IOWA 7TH.—Col. Lanman; Surgeon, ———. 30 patients. *Bird's Point, Mo.*
- MISSOURI 8TH.—Col. M. L. Smith; no Surgeon; Assistant, Taft. About 30 patients. *Paducah, Ky.*
- MISSOURI MERRILL'S HORSE REGIMENT.—Surgeon, Knickerbocker; 30 patients. *St. Louis.*
- INDIANA 11TH.—Col. McGuinness; Surgeon T. W. Fry. 21 patients. *Paducah, Ky.*
- INDIANA 23D.—Col. Sanderson; Surgeon, Thos. R. Austin. 25 patients. *Paducah, Ky.*
- POST HOSPITAL, CAIRO.—Surgeon, Dr. Burke. 90 patients.
- "SIMMONS' GENERAL HOSPITAL," MOUND CITY.—Surgeon, Dr. Franklin. 230 patients.
- POST HOSPITAL, PADUCAH.—93 patients. Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Ray.

Total number in Hospital, as above, *one thousand and sixty-three.*

N. B.—Many others were on the sick lists of the Regiments, but were not in Hospitals.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 39.

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## THIRD REPORT

CONCERNING THE

Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission

TO

SICK SOLDIERS PASSING THROUGH WASHINGTON.

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BY FREDERICK N. KNAPP, Special Relief Agent.

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WASHINGTON, *March* 21, 1862.

TO FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Secretary Sanitary Commission:*

SIR—My last report bore date of October 21. Since that time to the present, the work upon our hands has steadily increased. More room, more money, more time, more medical attendance, have all been demanded. Fewer new regiments have arrived of late, but the regiments already in the field having become more generally acquainted with our plans for rendering help, are now in the habit of sending directly to our care sick and discharged men, who come to the city from the various regimental hospitals to obtain their pay and to start for home.

During the last two months quite a number of men have been sent to us thus, even from the more distant regiments at Poolsville and at Budd's Ferry, with letters from their surgeons, or other officers, requesting us to receive them and render them such assistance as they might demand. These men frequently reach here just at night, and are much exhausted, and need, peculiarly, the shelter and the helping hand which we give to them.

A large number of men have also come to us from the hospitals at Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Annapolis. These hospitals receive by hundreds the convalescents from the general hospitals in and around Washington. When these convalescents are well enough to join their regiments, or else, while partially recovered, they are so far diseased as to call for their discharge from the service, they return to Washington, all needing more or less care; some of them almost entirely helpless.

At different dates, we have received twenty-five and thirty at a time, who come on thus from these hospitals with their papers of discharge. They are, of course, men who need protection and care; but they have no claim upon any provision for such special assistance, excepting that which we furnish to them. Some of these men, returning with their discharge papers, have been very weak, and, without the help and protection which they received from us, they must inevitably have been exposed to much suffering.

Another class of men who have claimed our sympathy and help has been the returned prisoners from Richmond. These returned prisoners have usually been detained in the city a week or more before all their necessary pay rolls, furloughs, or discharges could be made out. During that time we have taken care of all among them who were sick or wounded. Thus, from these we have had 75 or 100 men at a time.

Again: we have been called upon to receive at the Home many of those referred to in my last report, as constituting a new class, viz: men belonging to regiments ordered to move from Washington to Annapolis or elsewhere on special service. These regiments, after they have struck their tents, come to the railroad station, bringing with them many men who are too sick to bear, without great risk, the exposure while waiting, as they almost unavoidably are obliged to do, some hours before moving on in the cars.

These four classes of men, added to those who are furnished by the newly-arrived regiments, and those who are picked up wandering in the streets or found in the guard-house, needing help, constitute the list of soldiers who have had the shelter of the Home. The following are some of the figures taken from our record book: Number of different men received from October 21 to present date, (March 21,) 3,685; number of "night's lodging" furnished, 9,944; number who have received medical treatment from the surgeon in charge, (Dr. Grymes,) 2,544; number of those received at the Home afterwards sent to general hospital, 172; number of men discharged from the service, and on their way to their homes, who have been here, 983; number of deaths in this time at the Home, 2; number of garments and blankets used and distributed to those who were inmates here, or were found at the depot, in need of such supplies, 7,796.

Amount of money expended since October 21, for direct use in this branch of the Commission, \$2,480.

The smallest number of men who have been in the Home any night is 11; the largest number any night, 130. Often, for a week at a time, the daily number will be 80. One week the daily average was over



100. During the last eight weeks, the average number lodged has been each night 71. On a given night, there were but 17 in the Home, and the following night there were 118. In order to be prepared to accommodate comfortably this larger number of invalid soldiers, who might at any time come in upon us, it was found necessary to make additional provision. For this purpose, at our request, Government furnished for our use two large-sized portable houses, in addition to one furnished by the proprietors themselves, (Skillings & Flint, of Boston, Mass.) These houses are admirably suited to the purpose for which we use them. They are easily warmed, well lighted, and thoroughly ventilated. These three portable houses, standing near the building we had previously used, will accommodate, comfortably, sixty additional men.

For the purposes of special relief, a portable house has also been placed, at the expense of the Commission, on 17th street, near the office of the Paymaster who settles the accounts of discharged soldiers.

It was found that, owing to the large number of discharged soldiers who daily gathered at this office, it was often impossible, with all the diligence used, for part of the men to be paid off until late in the day. Meantime, these invalid soldiers, being generally men who had just come out of hospitals, general or regimental, became exceedingly exhausted. Not unfrequently, also, men would arrive at too late an hour to have their papers handed in upon that day, and they were thus obliged, without money or friends, to find a place to stay over night. Or, again, some defect in their papers rendered it necessary for these men to return to their regiment to have the error corrected, and yet it was impossible for them to go until the next morning. This necessity of finding, at some rate, food and lodging, subjected the sick soldiers to the imposition of men who were ready to take advantage of their situation. An examination into a number of cases revealed the fact that repeatedly these soldiers had been thus obliged to pawn their blankets or clothes for their lodging, to be redeemed at an exorbitant price the next day after they had received their pay.

In order to guard these men against exposure to such imposition, and for the purpose of furnishing a convenient resting place for the more feeble, and a table close at hand where all who were waiting could obtain food, it was deemed advisable to have a suitable house where the Commission could render this service. It was important to have this place as near as possible to the office of the Paymaster; and as no vacant building or part of one could be obtained in the vicinity, one of the portable houses was put up at a cost of about \$200. An unoccupied spot was fortunately found for the building on 17th street.



In this house all that is necessary for comfort is provided ; and there are berths where 32 men can be accommodated. The man who looks after the place is able to give the soldiers any needed information in regard to their papers and their journey home ; and he also furnishes to the discharged soldiers whatever flannels and blankets are needed for their better protection.

The Paymaster (Major McClure) has very cordially co-operated with the Commission in this endeavor to relieve and help these invalid soldiers. On an average, since this house was opened, some 40 or 45 men per day have been in for rest and food. The number accommodated here for the night averages from 14 to 16 ; while one night there were 41 who were sheltered here and fed. There were three days last week during which 440 invalid soldiers were fed here. The advance of the army sent in an unusual number to be discharged as unfit for service.

During the last three months, frequent calls have been made upon us for assistance by soldiers honorably discharged, (on account of disability,) but who either have had no money or else only partly enough to carry them home. They are men who, now that they are discharged, have little or else nothing coming to them from Government, because, having drawn clothing at an average cost of say \$38 or \$40, and having been in service but a few months, the allowance for clothing, \$3.50 per month, covers but a small part of what is charged against them, and the balance has to come out of what is allowed for "pay due" and "pay for travelling and subsistence."

Had these same men not been disabled by sickness, they would have been obliged to draw but little more clothing during the year, and the year's allowance would become \$42.

Their back pay amounts to but little, for they have generally received all that is due them up to the first of the previous month, and have sent it home or otherwise disposed of it. In most instances they have sent it home.

So they are left adrift. Government has fulfilled its contract, and cannot furnish them free passes, except in special cases, lest it thereby expose itself to fraud or encourage men to neglect making provision for such a contingency.

But the fact remains. Here are these men, away from home, and without means to get there ; most of them sick, some very sick. If their lack of money has arisen from any fault of theirs, it is almost invariably the fault of ignorance.

The course which I adopt in regard to these men is this : I inform myself, by examining their papers of discharge at the Pay Office, that

the men are destitute owing to causes not in their own control—that is, that they have not received their pay and spent it. Next, that there is no one able to furnish them money upon whom they could reasonably call for it. Then, no such help being at hand, I take them to the cars and buy a ticket for them to their homes, first seeing that they are comfortably provided with clean flannels, &c. If a man is very sick, so that he evidently needs support and care, I engage some trustworthy person travelling to the same point to see him safely returned to his home. And where no such fellow-traveller is found who is willing to take the responsibility, some reliable person in the employ of the Commission is sent expressly to deliver the sick man to his friends.

Previously to our helping them, (as I afterward found,) some poor discharged soldiers had been waiting in this place many days and weeks trying to collect the means to get home. They were men whom we did not happen to get hold of when they were discharged. But now, with our new “Lodge” near the Paymaster’s Office, we are informed of the condition of almost all who present their papers there.

The amount of relief which has thus been given by this new method of action, I am confident, has been great, and the money expended well applied. It is something more than bestowing food and clothing, or alleviating pain—it is relieving a mental anxiety. Some of the saddest men I have seen have been those who, discharged from service, sick or broken down, finding themselves far away from home, with no visible means of getting there, have stood asking what they should do. And some of the most grateful men I have ever seen have been those same persons, when I have said to them, “we will buy tickets for you; you shall start in this next train.”

During the last few weeks we have had occasion thus to render assistance to more than sixty men. Many letters have been received from these men after they have reached their friends, showing, in their simple words, how much larger the kindness was to them than the money it cost indicated.

The expense of this branch of our relief, since December 1, has been about six hundred dollars. (This is included in the total above named.)

The same general plan has been pursued, as heretofore, to make sure of finding all who arrived at the Station-house needing assistance—men who were not so sick as to give them a claim upon the general hospital, or else whose regiments (but recently in camp) were not yet prepared with the shelter and comfort of a regimental hospital. Some responsible person is at the Station-house whenever a regiment arrives, whether it is night or day, who selects and takes up to the home all who need care.

An arrangement has also been made with some of the hospitals for convalescents at Annapolis and Baltimore, by which we are informed of the intended arrival here of any men who are returning to Washington to obtain papers of discharge.

The plan has likewise been continued by which the faithful surgeon in charge of the Home, Dr. Grymes, besides his labors at the house, performs the ordinary duty of regimental surgeon for regiments or parts of regiments who come on without a surgeon in charge, so long time as they remain near the railroad station. There have been thousands of men sent on in parts of regiments that have thus claimed medical treatment.

Such is a general statement of the means used for special relief during the last few months.

I will now refer to a few of the details of the work by copying here and there a day's record from the brief journal which is kept.

“SUNDAY EVENING, *December 1*, 1861.—The 8th Regiment of New York Cavalry arrived last night, with a large number of men sick with the measles; some very sick. Forty were brought up here in the night, and nine more this morning. Just at daybreak one of them died; he was too far gone when brought here in the night to allow medical skill to be of any avail. His body to-day has been embalmed, to be sent to his friends. Ambulances have been obtained, and twenty-two of the men most seriously sick have been sent to the general hospital. A few days of care and rest will be all that the others need. There are seventy-one in the Home to-night.”

“DECEMBER 8.—The New York 89th Volunteers arrived to-day; seventeen of them were brought here, of whom two were sent to the general hospital. Twenty-one men, who have been here the last few days waiting for their regimental hospital to be finished, were to-day sent to their camps. Dr. Grymes has to-day examined and prescribed for thirty-three in the Home; some of whom are quite sick, but doing well. There are sixty-four here to-night.”

“SUNDAY, *December 15*.—There were but thirty-five here last night; it is comparatively quiet to-day; all will be glad to rest; it has been a busy week; last Sunday there were nearly sixty here; many of the men to-day are writing letters home. We send from this house, upon an average, about thirty-five letters per day to the post-office. Two or three of the men have gone to the church near by. To-day Dr. Grymes has taken an ambulance and been himself with Williams out to his regiment, to consult with the surgeon there who may know more about his case; but it is decided best to bring Williams back again; his disease



seems to be nothing but homesickness with general debility. He is a mere boy, of about eighteen, from a New Jersey regiment; he has been here since December 5. He evidently struggles to be manly and brave, but his homesickness has been a real disease, which masters him. We have thus frequent opportunity here in the Home to make note of what in the general excitement is almost unavoidably overlooked, and which yet is worth while to have borne in mind while we are seeking to aid and strengthen our soldiers—namely, what a vast amount there is in the hearts of these soldiers of personal sacrifice, daily struggle to put down anxious feelings which might enervate the man, tender thoughts of home checked in their utterance, and hope silently waiting. The sum and costliness of all this can never be estimated, and will never be recorded; yet, taken in the aggregate in the camps of these five hundred thousand men who have left their Northern and Western homes, the total is immense.”

“DECEMBER 16.—Our Sunday quiet did not continue long, for though we had but about thirty in the Home last evening, we found seventy-three here this morning. The 57th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers arrived at the Station in the night. There were none among them very ill, but many who needed care at just this time to prevent serious sickness. The surgeon of the regiment selected forty-one of his men and brought them up to the Home, and himself remained, together with the hospital steward, through the night to take care of them.”

“DECEMBER 19.—To-day forty-two new men have come in, many of them needing medical treatment. Nine are from Harris’s Light Cavalry, thirty-three are from the 1st Vermont Cavalry. In this newly-arrived Vermont regiment there was an unusually large number sick, as they had been confined to the close cars several days in their long journey from Northern Vermont; and, too, there were in this regiment many who illustrate what we continually observe, viz.: such an earnest desire on the part of convalescents not to be left behind at home, that they insist upon coming on with their fellow-soldiers when they are not really in a fit state to bear the excessive fatigue and exposure. This 1st Vermont Cavalry reached Washington last night about midnight. Instead of coming in to the station-house, as is usual, and where we were waiting for them to arrive, they were left a mile or a mile and a half out, because this was the most convenient place for taking the horses from the cars, and near to the spot where the cavalry were to encamp, north of the Capitol. The sick men were all in a car by themselves, which ought to have been run in to the station-house; but, owing to some carelessness, it was left where the train stopped.



“This morning, when we went out to see what had become of the sick, we found them all seated upon their knapsacks or lying upon their blankets on the ground, in the midst of baggage and horses. It seems that the passenger ear in which the sick men were left was needed, and they had been turned out a mile from the depot, with no shelter or possible provision for their comfort, and no food but what they had carried for four days in their haversacks. We found that the surgeon had just gone in to seek some assistance, but we had not met him. We immediately sent for ambulances, and carried all the sick (thirty-three) in to the Home, the Colonel himself, with kind care, assisting with his own hands each man into the ambulance. One of the surgeons of the regiment and the hospital steward are here now helping to take care of the men. There are seventy-five inmates to-night.”

“DECEMBER 25—(Christmas.)—The large room has been cleared out, and long tables spread, and a Christmas dinner prepared for all who happened to be here to-day. There were about sixty seated at the tables, and although some of the men were not able to taste what was spread before them, they were all able, as the face of each man showed, to share in the feeling which passed from one to another as they thought of Christmas days at home. And these thoughts of home did not make them weaker, but stronger for enduring hardships, as was manifest from the calm, earnest manner in which they responded to the few words spoken to them, telling them to bear in mind that Christmas day had but half its meaning until we had a country where, literally, freedom, justice, right laws, and all Christian principles were absolute in their control, and inaugurated by the will of the people.

“I cannot but note the example here, in a small way, of what may be seen and ought to be felt working, in an immense way, all through our army, viz.: the effect of bringing together into personal contact, men from all the different parts of the land, blending their thoughts and interests and sympathies in common. For instance, as I took pains to record, we had to-day at our Christmas dinner men from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maine, Wisconsin, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Indiana and Maryland. To-night there are sixty-one men in the Home.”

“DECEMBER 28.—Last night there were but thirty-six in the house; to-night there are seventy-eight. The New Hampshire 6th Regiment arrived to-day, from whom we received thirty men; a number of them are so sick that they will probably have to be sent to the general hospital. Their surgeon is here helping to care for them. We have also received to-day 15 men of the 2d New York Artillery. Some of

the other men who have been discharged and obtained their pay have started for their homes to-day, all comfortably provided with warm flannels."

"JANUARY 6.—Although last night there were but twenty in the house, and a number have since left, to-night there are 124 here. Toward evening the New Hampshire 6th regiment (which arrived but a few days ago) came in from their camp to the Station, en route to Annapolis. They had struck their tents and brought all their sick with them, (except three, who were sent to the general hospital.) As the cars are not ready to receive these men, they are brought here for the night; there are eighty of them, none very sick, but all needing care and nursing; most of them are men recovering from measles.

"To-night, also, we found in the large building with the soldiers the wives and children of the Regulars, who have just come on from California. We have brought them all up here and given them one of the small houses to themselves. They seem very grateful for the kindness. There are fifteen women and twenty-nine little children. Now, while this record is made, the three sick men of the New Hampshire 6th Regiment, who were sent to the general hospital, are brought in. They say that they have been carried to three different hospitals, but, through some informality in their application for admission, they were not received; and so now they have followed the regiment and are brought here. The day has been excessively cold and bleak, and they must have suffered much. I am thankful that there is shelter and warmth ready for them."

"JANUARY 7.—There are but thirty here to-night, (not including the children of the California soldiers.) The women and children will remain here a few days, until their husbands can make arrangements elsewhere for them.

"All the New Hampshire men left to-day for Annapolis. The hospital steward received a supply of medicines, enough to serve for a week or two. He stated that a requisition for medicines had been made some days before, but had not yet been answered; and now they are ordered off for the Burnside expedition destitute of a supply. It may reach them before they sail."

"JANUARY 9.—There are fifty-one in the house to-night; the larger part of them returned prisoners from Richmond; they came in to-day; none of them very sick, as but few of the wounded men came at this time; but many of them much worn by their long confinement."

"JANUARY 10.—To-day we have supplied the needs of all the returned prisoners who came on from Richmond yesterday. They had not received,

with few exceptions, the garments sent for their use to Richmond by the United States Government. Twelve cases of supplies were carried to the Soldiers' Rest, and the men answering to their names came in order and received each man a blanket, two flannel shirts, (under and upper,) a pair of socks, pair of woolen drawers, handkerchief and towel. There were about two hundred and seventy men supplied—receiving in all about two thousand articles. These men were then directed to go by companies of forty to the place provided for bathing, where they washed and then put on their clean clothes. The ladies who have placed in our hands these supplies would have felt repaid for their labor if they could have seen the real comfort which has been given to these returned prisoners to-day."

"JANUARY 18.—This evening one hundred and forty-five more returned prisoners arrived in Washington; they were all men who were wounded, and had been in the hospitals at Richmond; many of them were still suffering much from their wounds. It was the plan of the officer in charge to have some forty or fifty of those who needed most surgical care taken at once from the Station-house to the St. Elizabeth Hospital; but they arrived so late, and the night was so dark, and the roads so bad, that it would have been almost impossible to have taken them there, even if ambulances had been in readiness, (as they were *not*.) Those who most needed care were brought up to the Home (about eighty of them) and made comfortable."

"JANUARY 19, *Sunday Morning*.—This forenoon was devoted to returned prisoners by Dr. Grymes and the surgeon who came up in charge of them, dressing their wounds. There were about fifty of them whose wounds required extensive dressing, the others less. In accordance with previous arrangements, the ambulances came and took to the hospital about forty of the men needing most care. This left us more room; so that all the other returned prisoners were brought from the Retreat to the Home. To-night we have a house full."

I make the following extract from the record kept by Dr. Grymes :

" " A surgeon and assistant surgeon in charge were with the returned prisoners, and, as soon as practicable after they arrived, those requiring immediate medical and surgical attention (about seventy-five men) were brought up to the Home, where they were carefully attended to and comfortably bedded—the first time for many of the poor fellows since the 20th of July. \* \* \* \* \*

The surgeon in charge was delighted that he had found a place where his sick men could be cared for. He stated to me that when he arrived at the Retreat, about 8 o'clock in the evening, all was confusion; and



he did not know what he should do with his sickest men, inasmuch as he saw at a glance that they could not stay there without risking their lives. No one *officially* met him. He had a letter to a surgeon here, but he did not make his appearance, (although it was known they were coming on:) so, with pleasure he accepted the offer of the Home. And on Sunday, after waiting till 12 o'clock for some one to come and take the men, he had to go with them himself to St. Elizabeth Hospital.' "

"SUNDAY, *January 26.*—A beautiful day. The house full. Many of the men writing letters to their friends. On my way down this morning, I went to look up a poor fellow whom I had heard of as being sometimes in the Central guard-house, sometimes wandering about the city. I found him in a sad state of body and mind. He had apparently had a fever, which had affected his brain and he had strayed off, and was unable to recollect where he belonged or what his regiment was. I took him to the Home, had all his clothes put in a pile and burned, gave him fresh garments, and he is now resting quietly. When I went up stairs to see him this evening, he seemed to have a measure of returning intelligence—his first exclamation was, 'I do believe you are the man I've been looking for who is going to take me home to my mother.' He afterwards was able to recall his name and the number of his regiment; he is from the State of Michigan. There are sixty-eight in the house to-night."

"JANUARY 31.—During the past twelve days we have averaged about eighty in the house each night. To-day all the returned prisoners that had remained till this time started for home. Day before yesterday the forty sent to St. Elizabeth Hospital were brought here to be near the ears when ready to start. They left here this afternoon. I have been throughout impressed with the marvelous patience of these men; their subdued quiet tone: not arising from a lack of spirit or from a lack of patriotic feeling, but arising, as far as I could judge after a somewhat careful observation, and I think I judged justly, from a settled predetermination to *accept* whatever came to them as one of the conditions of engaging in the work which they had taken their oath to serve. This is not a careless impression on my part; but a judgment. I am more and more impressed with the real thorough tone of earnestness which somehow has got wrought into the hearts of our citizen soldiers. Among these soldiers there will be found, of course, many men who have not caught the spirit of the hour—men whom no real purpose could ever get hold of, and who seem to deny such statements as I have just made; but these men ought not, by any means, to be taken as exponents of the whole. Determinations, convictions, broader views of the elements and the



worth of a nation's life; a more intelligent understanding of the great question which lies back of this whole struggle, and a more thorough interest in human freedom; all these conditions of the heart and thought are gradually and even largely showing themselves among our soldiers. When men really suffer in a cause, they begin to ask themselves seriously what the cause is for which they are thus suffering. I make this record, because in daily contact with the men, I have carefully sought to know the truth upon what seemed to me an important point.

"Before these returned prisoners left us for their homes, each one was provided with whatever under garments he needed, and, all who desired them, with blankets."

"FEBRUARY 1.—Yesterday afternoon a company of regulars arrived from Key West, bringing six women and nine children, whom we have placed in one of the small houses. Last night, in the night, the 76th New York Regiment arrived. Twelve were brought up to the Home, and this morning thirteen more; the larger part of them requiring medical treatment."

"FEBRUARY 2, *Sunday*.—To-day, still thirteen more additional of the New York 76th have been sent up here, and a number of men returning from Annapolis hospital have come in. There are a great many ill in the house. Dr. Grymes has been hard at work most of the day. There are here to-night three men, whom I chanced to come across just before dark, at the upper part of the city, looking sadly weary—in fact, almost utterly exhausted. They were tediously toiling their way to Headquarters for directions. Two of these men, as their papers showed, had been in the hospital sixty days each. This was the first day they had come out, yet they had been sent up from Sickles' Brigade, which is more than forty miles distant. Leaving early in the morning, they had been obliged to hurry off before they could secure a breakfast. They had come without any definite direction being given to them, or a cent of money furnished them by which they could ride from the wharf to the other part of the city, or by which they could pay for food or shelter. One of these men was bent almost double with rheumatism, and every step was pain to him. I record here this evidence of culpable negligence on the part of the officers in not providing what the most common humanity would dictate for the comfort of their discharged soldiers, both for the fact itself and to contrast it with the kind care of a captain of the New Hampshire 2d regiment, who a few days ago, after writing to me in advance, detailed one of his most reliable men to take charge of a sick soldier of his company who was coming to Washington—a distance of thirty or forty miles. I put these three soldiers into a

carriage and took them to the Home, and I never saw men more truly grateful for rest and help. They will have to remain some days before they can recover from this excessive fatigue. To-night there are eighty in the Home."

"FEBRUARY 5.—Twenty-five more of the New York 76th have come in, needing care; making in all, who have been here from that regiment, seventy.

"There came here yesterday four discharged soldiers who had no money to carry them to their homes—two of them very weak and sick. We kept them here last night, and in the morning furnished them means to get home. One of them had been sick nearly three months, and has not long to live. To-day Mr. Rogers has been over the river and obtained the discharge papers for three sick men, who were too weak to go themselves. There are sixty here to-night."

"FEBRUARY 12.—Doubleday's New York Artillery arrived last night in the night, and there were thirty-one of the men brought up here. Only one had to be sent to the general hospital. To-day, I furnished tickets to two more sick soldiers, discharged without pay—one to Pittsburg, the other to Troy, New York. Only forty-five in the house this evening."

"FEBRUARY 21.—Yesterday the 3d United States Cavalry, and to-day the 3d New York Artillery arrived. About forty men have come to the Home from these two regiments to stay; and Dr. Grymes has prescribed for some forty more of the 3d New York, at the Soldiers' Retreat, who needed some care. They had no surgeon with them. This evening, about 8½ o'clock, 350 more returned prisoners arrived; we took all who were sick to the Home. Finding that the others were not well provided with blankets, I had ten cases brought down from the storehouse, and each man of the 350 had, before 10 o'clock, a bed quilt or blanket to sleep upon. This was the more important as they will probably be obliged to remain in the Soldiers' Rest, where there are no beds, for some days while their furloughs are being made out, and other arrangements made with reference to them."

"FEBRUARY 24.—Three hundred and fifty more returned prisoners arrived; some of them wounded, a number of them very feeble; four (Massachusetts 15th regiment) are sick with consumption. We receive all that need care.

"I had twelve cases of bed quilts ready in advance at the Station-house, and we furnish all the men. There are eighty in the Home to-night.

"Up at the Lodge, in 17th street, to-day, there were some sixty men fed, and forty are there sleeping to-night. Owing to a public funeral,

the Treasury was not open to-day, so all the discharged men who came in for their pay were obliged to wait till the next day. There were sixty-five of them collected at the Paymaster's. All who were not accommodated at the Lodge were put into the omnibus or ambulances and brought down here."

"FEBRUARY 26.—We have to-day made arrangements to facilitate the departure home of those Massachusetts men who are so very sick; two have gone on in charge of a brother, the others with friends. They have a bed provided in a sleeping car.

"Also, to-day, we sent a man to take charge of a sick soldier to New Hampshire; for, without some one to take care of him, the man could not possibly live through the journey; and his anxious desire was to reach home to die."

"MARCH 3.—We received this morning twenty-eight disabled soldiers, who came on from Annapolis Hospital, with their papers of medical discharge complete, but most of them without their descriptive list and pay roll. Their officers are absent on the Burnside expedition. It will be some days, probably, before these men can get their papers arranged so as to obtain their pay and final discharge. This neglect of captains and regimental surgeons to furnish a descriptive list and pay roll to each man who is left behind in hospital, is a source of sad evil and serious delays to these sick men; it is the result of gross and culpable carelessness. I always find, in talking with a body of twenty-five or thirty discharged soldiers like these here now, that there is among them a real regret at being obliged to leave the service until they have helped to strike the final blow.

"The 103d Pennsylvania regiment brought in a number of men to-day. There are eighty-two in the Home to-night."

MARCH 7.—To-day, most of the twenty-eight discharged soldiers, who came from Annapolis on the 3d instant, have left. The chaplain of the Annapolis Hospital, who came on in charge of them, and has rendered efficient service, goes with these men as far as Baltimore to care for them and to buy there for them the railroad tickets to their various homes. This will save the poor fellows much trouble and anxiety. And I will here accord the fact, that some of the most practically efficient, as well as earnest workers in the army, have been found among the chaplains of regiments and hospitals. Notwithstanding, it must be confessed, that some of the army chaplains, in being brought to just this necessity of dealing with real men every day, have given peculiar emphasis to the fact, that a miserably poor thing are priestly robes and Sunday services unless joined to a spirit and a hand which take



hold of the actual work of helping men who need assistance. We have sent home four more men to-day who had no means whatever at hand.

"To-day, the 92d New York regiment arrived in Washington. We found among them about thirty who were too sick to be exposed. We took these up to the Home. It is a real refreshment to see with what gladness these sick soldiers, wearied with a long journey, accept the invitation to go to a house where they can find a bed and some of the attentions and comforts of a home. To-day, also, the 81st New York regiment arrived, and the 12th United States Infantry, filling every spot around the Station-house full of armed men, and bringing in to us about twenty-five more who need medical treatment and care. Every place is full to-night. There are one hundred and thirty in the house, sleeping here."

"MARCH 8.—This has been a busy day. The 14th United States Infantry, the 93d New York Volunteers, the 5th New York Cavalry, and the 98th New York Volunteers, all arrived since last night. From these various regiments about sixty men have been brought in to us. Dr. Grymes has examined them all and prescribed for most of them.

"Fortunately, many of the men who were here yesterday went to their camps or regimental hospitals to-day; still we have over a hundred in the house to-night. A few of these men are quite sick, but most of them need only a few days of rest and medical treatment.

"I was called early this morning by the police to look after some of the returned prisoners, who, it seems, when paid off and furloughed the other day, instead of going directly to their homes, had remained behind and been spending their time and money in the drinking saloons. It has been our special aim, knowing the temptations here, to see that all these returned prisoners, as soon as paid and furloughed, immediately took passage on the cars; but among so many men and amid such confusion, some escape us. I found these three men in a cheap lodging house; one of them was already dead, another very sick, and the third suffering with delirium. The last two were immediately sent to the hospital. The body of the other man, after proper medical examination and certificate, was respectfully buried. From papers found in his pocket he was readily identified; and I have to-night written to his parents, informing them of his death. He had in his possession letters from his parents, received by him while in the prison at Richmond. They were full of home-like tenderness. Thus he died, by this worst of enemies, after he had passed unharmed through a battle and through months of imprisonment. One of the other two men cannot live many days."



“ MARCH 10.—To-day the 101st N. Y., and the 107th Pennsylvania, and 100th New York regiments reached Washington. From these three regiments we took about forty-seven men to the Home. A number of them will have to be sent to the general hospital. There have also been brought in to us some twenty other men from parts of regiments that have arrived; so that to-night again Dr. Grymes is hard at work, and the house is very full.”

“ MARCH 11.—Some sixty-five of the 1st Vermont Cavalry came on to-day from Annapolis. They were sick there when the regiment moved, and were left behind. We took from these as large a number as we could accommodate, (thirty,) selecting those most needing care. To-night there are one hundred and ten in the house.”

The record of the past two weeks is a continuation of the previous fortnight. A vast number of troops have arrived at the Station-house; and it has been in our power to afford “aid and comfort” in a corresponding measure. During that time the average number that we have cared for has been a hundred and more at this house, and forty each day at the house on 17th street. It is worthy of note, that during the past month, when there has been constantly such a house full of men, few of them sick enough to subject them to the more severe restraints which fitly connect themselves with hospital treatment, there has scarcely been an instance of disregard of the rules of gentleness and propriety. This tells well for our American soldiers, taken from the masses of the people.

With reference to the character of the diseases of the men who come under our care, I will simply quote a sentence from my last report, inasmuch as further observation confirms the view there given:

“\* I should say that at least three-quarters of the discharged men, composing one-third of the whole whom we receive, are persons who, according to their own testimony, were more or less diseased before they left their homes, and who would never have been allowed to enlist except for the culpable carelessness of the medical officers who inspected these same men before their enlistment. I have taken special care to inform myself upon this point, so far as I could learn from the opportunity afforded me of talking with six or eight hundred discharged men. At one time we had nineteen discharged men from one regiment, and it was their united testimony that ‘the surgeon who examined them as recruits passed them off at the rate of a company of ninety men in an hour.’ The attention of public officials who have this matter in charge ought surely to be drawn to these facts. By such carelessness private homes

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\* Second Report, p. 21.

suffer, the public service suffers, and the good name of the army, as a place where the health of the soldier is cared for, suffers. It is a wrong all around.

“With reference to other men who come under our care—not discharged, but belonging to newly arrived regiments—I should say that one half of these are men who ought never to have been allowed to enlist, while the other half is made up chiefly of men who, though ill when the regiment was called upon to move, could not bear to be left behind, and therefore undertook a journey which was too severe for them. But such men usually are ready for service after a few days’ rest.

“There are but few persons who come into our hands affected with contagious or infectious disorders, or threatened with protracted sickness of the severer types of disease; but when any such arrive, they are immediately placed under the better care which they receive at the general hospitals.”

The same surgeon as when I last reported to you (Dr. Grymes) remains in charge, with a continuance of the same unwearied zeal and faithfulness which had previously made his services so acceptable and so valuable.

Mr. J. B. Clark, who has been the acting superintendent at the house the past five months, has been obliged, by other duties, to return to his home. He has labored constantly, patiently, and freely. His place is now filled by Mr. A. A. Abbott, who gives us his services without charge, and has entered diligently upon his labors.

Mrs. Murry continues her services with the same kindly and painstaking care. And I believe that all others, who have been connected with the labors of the Home, have given something more than time and strength to the work—have had a real interest in the soldiers themselves, who have been sheltered here.

I will turn to one point of practical detail. I am glad to be able to report that much more liberal provision has been recently secured for the accommodation of regiments at the railroad station. It is the improvement which we have previously urged. A short time since the excessively crowded and unwholesome state of these buildings for the reception of troops induced us to make a detailed report of the inconveniences and dangers growing out of it, and the absolute demand for larger accommodation. This report was transmitted to the Quartermaster’s Department, and General Meigs immediately gave orders, without a day’s delay, for erecting larger buildings. New barracks have been put up within the last three weeks, which will accommodate 1,000 men, and an additional room for serving rations is now being

built; so that instead of 300 men, 800 can be fed at one time. Some days recently there have been 9,000 meals to be served to newly-arrived regiments or to those leaving by railroad, and the embarrassment and confusion caused by want of sufficient room was great. This evil is now to be obviated.

I must not close this report, upon the special relief given to our soldiers, without referring, briefly as I may, to the large amount of aid which has been rendered to those needing assistance, by Mr. Henry B. Rogers, an associate member of the Commission, and my most constant and valued coadjutor. He has gratuitously devoted his whole winter to the service of such as wanted help. Not a day has passed but has brought not one case, but many cases, where his judicious advice, or timely direction, or helping hand, has saved men from anxiety, exposure, tedious walks, or real suffering. Each individual case claimed, perhaps, but a half-hour or a half-day of thought or time, and seemed not much in itself; but even in each individual case the relief to a sick man away from his home, and alone, was not small; and the aggregate of all the pain saved has been greater than any person not cognizant of the variety and the number of these calls could estimate. Could these details be written out, it would form a record of "aid and comfort" given to our soldiers which would call for the gratitude of all. Neither the Commission nor the soldiers can soon forget the faithful labors of this real friend of them both.

If it were desirable, I could append to this report many letters which have been received from men or parents of men who have been cared for by the Commission and sent to their homes. It was not my purpose to copy any of these letters, but as one comes to my hand from the mail just as I am writing this report, I will insert it.

18th MARCH, 1862.

MR. KNAPP, *of the Sanitary Commission*:

MY DEAR SIR—You believe, I am sure, that I have forgot your kindness for me when I was in Washington, but I hope these few following words shall show that such is not the case. The reason why I did not write to you before this day is a few accidents (though of little importance) have postponed my arrival in my family as far as some few days ago, and that this is the first occasion for me to thank you and make you know how I get along. As to these thanks, I wish I could write in English like I can do it in French, for I should be so glad to express my gratitude for you in the manner in which I do feel it, but this is impossible to me, so I beg of you, suppose yourself in the position in which I was, and be so good as to believe that I feel what you should have felt.



My health is getting a good deal better since I am home, and I take advantage of it to continue my studies. My father asked me to assure you of his gratitude.

Once more, I thank you, and hope you shall not forget your obliged friend,

\* \* \* \* \*

This is one letter, which may be taken as an exponent of a whole class of those we receive ; for though many of them are not of equal refinement of thought and style, they all bear witness to refinement of feeling, and tell of real gratitude and a hearty appreciation of the kind bounty of those "loyal women" and men who have placed supplies and money in the hands of the Commission, to be used for our sick and wounded soldiers.

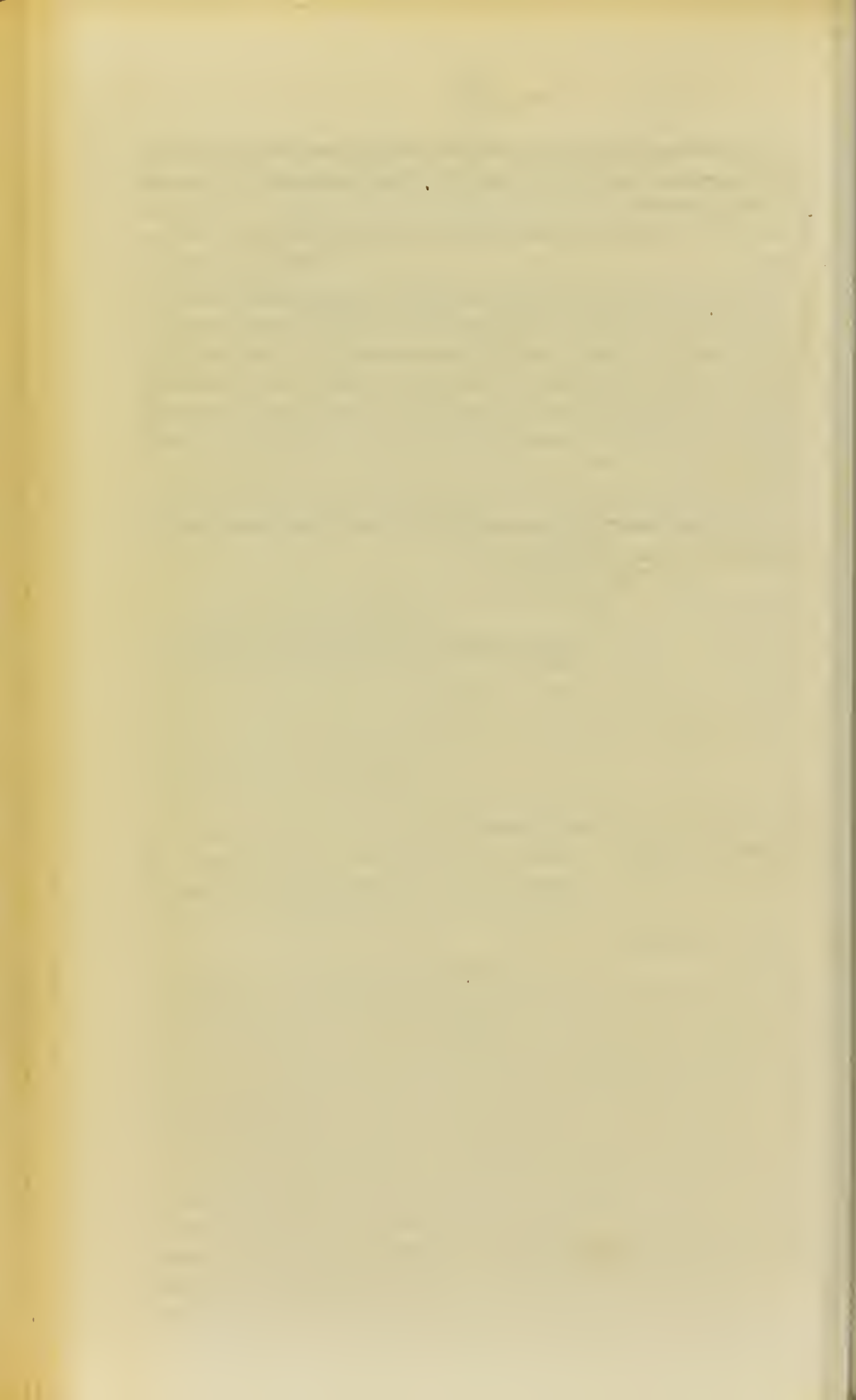
I feel that the demands which are made upon us, and our facilities for doing good, were never greater than now, provided the means are still afforded us for continuing the work.

Respectfully,

FRED'K N. KNAPP,

*Special Relief Agent of Sanitary Commission.*





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 40.

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## A REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR

OF THE

# Operations of the Sanitary Commission,

AND UPON THE

## Sanitary Condition of the Volunteer Army,

ITS

MEDICAL STAFF, HOSPITALS, AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES.

DECEMBER, 1861.

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WASHINGTON, *December 9th*, 1861.

*To the Honorable* SIMON CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War :*

SIR—By direction of the Sanitary Commission, I respectfully submit the following report of its operations since its appointment by you, on the 9th of June, 1861, pursuant to the recommendation of the Acting Surgeon General, under date of May 22, 1861 :

### ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES.

By your order appointing the Commission, it was vested with no legal authority, and with no power beyond that of “inquiry and advice in respect of the sanitary interests of “the United States forces.” It was directed, especially, to enquire into “the principles and practices connected with the “inspection of recruits and enlisted men; the sanitary condition of the volunteers; to the means of preserving and “restoring the health, and of securing the general comfort “and efficiency of troops; to the proper provision of cooks, “nurses, and hospitals; and to other subjects of like nature.”

The Commission has, from the first, fully recognized the fact that its office was purely auxiliary and advisory, and that

it was created solely to give what voluntary aid it could to the Department and the Medical Bureau, in meeting the pressure of a great and unexpected demand on their resources.

The Medical Bureau especially, organized with reference to the wants of an army of only a few thousand men, seemed likely to be most seriously embarrassed in its operations, when called on to provide for a newly levied force of several hundred thousand, especially as both the officers and men of these hastily assembled regiments were mostly without experience, and required immediate and extraordinary instruction and supervision to save them from the consequences of exposure, malaria, unwholesome food, and other perils of camp life.

The Commission met for the first time at Washington, on the 12th June last, and proceeded to organize and to settle, so far as was then possible, the general scheme of its operations.

#### PRELIMINARY SURVEY.

For the purpose of a preliminary survey of the ground, the President of the Commission, Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D., immediately undertook an examination of the sanitary condition of the troops assembling at Cairo, St. Louis, and other military centres in the west, and a like preliminary examination was made by other commissioners into the state of the troops on the Potomac, and at Fortress Monroe. Full reports of the results thus ascertained were submitted to the Commission, showing that the apprehensions entertained of dangers to the army from the neglect of the most obvious sanitary precautions, in regard to camp site, ventilation, drainage, &c.; and from the general ignorance of officers and soldiers in regard to this subject, and in regard, also, to the forms of procedure to which medical and other officers are obliged to conform, in order to obtain supplies from the regular military sources, were in no degree exaggerated, and that there was a vast field of work before the Commission, which Government could not, for the time being, fully occupy, but which could not be neglected without imminent risk of great public loss, and national calamity.

## FINANCIAL BASIS.

As the Commission was to receive no pecuniary support from Government, it was under the necessity of calling on private liberality for the fund it required to sustain it. Its appeal for this purpose was responded to with promptitude and liberality, and the Commission was thus enabled to go into operation without delay. The Life Insurance Companies of Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey, were most generous in their contributions—one of the number (the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York) having given five thousand dollars to the objects of the Commission. It has received in money from all sources, up to the 25th of November last, twenty-eight thousand one hundred and seven dollars, (\$28,107,) the larger portion of which has been contributed by citizens and institutions of New York. Whether public liberality can be depended on as a permanent source of supply is uncertain. Should it fail, the Commission will be under the necessity of terminating its labors, unless Government should see fit to assume its support.

## ADVICE.

The Commission found itself charged with a two-fold duty, viz: of enquiry into the sanitary condition of the volunteer army, and of advice as to its improvement. This latter function included not only the duty of addressing to different departments of Government, from time to time, such recommendations or suggestions as occasion might suggest, but also that of keeping volunteer officers and soldiers themselves constantly and directly instructed and warned as to the novel dangers to which they were exposed, the necessary precautions against them, and the means pointed out by experience as best calculated to preserve them in bodily health and vigor for the performance of their duty to the country.

For this purpose the Commission proceeded, as speedily as possible, to secure the services of a body of physicians specially fitted for the required duty, and to send them into the field at various points from Fortress Monroe to St. Louis. In this it was retarded, not only by its limited means, but also by the difficulty of finding at once a sufficient number of gentlemen of the requisite qualifications. It was indispen-



sable that they should possess not only scientific education and a special acquaintance with sanitary laws, but sufficient tact to enable them, though holding no official position or military rank, to perform their duties as agents of an organization unknown to the regulations of the army, without awaking jealousy of their interference as officious and intrusive. It was also necessary, in view of the fact that the Commission could afford to pay but moderate compensation to its employees, that they should be men actuated by a strong and disinterested desire to be of service to the country.

Fourteen well qualified physicians are now employed by the Commission, each having a defined portion of the army under his observation. Six other gentlemen, each possessed of special acquirements, are engaged on special duties. A list of their names and of the posts to which they are respectively assigned is appended. It is proper to record the fact that they have in several cases withdrawn from positions far more remunerative than that now occupied by them, and have undertaken their present duty from motives of the highest benevolence and patriotism. Others have declined the office of Brigade Surgeon, tendered them by the War Department, to enter on what they considered a wider field of usefulness in the service of the Commission. No one is now employed on this duty who is not entitled, by education, experience, and social standing, to speak with a certain degree of moral authority; and whatever success the Commission may have attained in the execution of its duties, is believed to be due as much to the high character and intelligence of its Inspectors, as to all the other advantages it has enjoyed.

The duties of the Inspectors, beyond what has necessarily to be trusted to their discretion, are minutely detailed in the printed instructions issued to them, of which a copy is herewith submitted. It will be perceived that they are enjoined carefully to avoid whatever can excite apprehension of a disposition to interfere with military authority. Before entering any camp, they are required to obtain the formal approval of the Major General, the Brigadier General, and the Medical Director, in whose military jurisdiction it is included, together with an introduction to the commanding officer of

the regiment, and through him to the company officers. Having done this, they are directed to make a minute investigation into every point bearing directly or indirectly on the sanitary condition of the camp.

Among the subjects to which their attention is especially directed, and on which they are required to make detailed written reports, are the quality of rations and of water, the method of camp cooking, the ventilation of tents and quarters, the drainage of the camp, the healthfulness of its site, the administration of the hospital and the sufficiency of its supplies, the police of the camp, the quality of the tents and of the clothing of the men, the material used for tent flooring, if any, &c., &c. Whatever deficiencies or evils they find to exist by which the health, morale, or efficiency of the men may be endangered, they are instructed to indicate to the proper officer, at the same time offering advice, if it is needed, as to the best method of remedying them. Very few camps have been visited in which important improvements have not been ordered, at the suggestion and in the presence of the Inspector.

The influence, however, which officers unconsciously receive through the mere direction of their attention to neglected duties, by the inquiries which the Inspectors have need to address to them, constitutes the chief part of the value of the services of the Commission. This, of course, cannot be specified and recorded. But the effect of the advice given by the Inspectors of the Commission is found not to be confined to the particular camp visited, or to the officers with whom they converse. The example of one regiment in reforming abuses and enforcing sanitary laws is very generally followed by others near it, and an emulation is excited among company and regimental officers, the beneficial effects of which have been noticed in many cases where an ill-regulated regiment has been transferred to the neighborhood of a cleanly, well-policed, thoroughly drained, and salubrious camp. (See Appendix: *Example*.) Men who have been flooded out of their tents in a rain storm, get little sympathy from their neighbors who have been instructed how to protect themselves by drains, nor are those who feel a natural and soldierly pride

in the good order and cleanliness of their camp generally careful to conceal it when they enter a camp inferior to their own. There is no doubt that systematic attention to sanitary laws is becoming more generally understood to be a part of the duty of a military officer ; and it is satisfactory to observe that the more recently enlisted regiments begin better than those enlisted at the opening of the campaign, and improve faster. This, in part, may be fairly attributed to the publications of the Commission, which to the number of more than one hundred and fifty thousand have been scattered through the country and largely reprinted in the newspapers.

As every regiment brought to a high sanitary condition is found to be a radiating centre of good influences, it has been thought that the labors of the Inspectors (their numbers being necessarily far too small) would be most effectively and economically applied, by making as thorough work as practicable in the inspection of each regiment visited, and in securing the efficient co-operation of its officers, rather than in a superficial examination and hurried efforts for the direct benefit of a larger number.

The complete and accurate inspection of a single regiment, with the collection and recording of information on all the points to be embraced in the Inspector's return, cannot, as a rule, be performed in less than an entire day. If there are improvements to be suggested, and their necessity explained to officers fully engrossed with their new military duties, much additional time must be spent, and many more visits often paid, before the necessary orders are given, and carried into execution. But it should be added, in justice to our volunteer officers, that the Inspectors of the Commission have seldom had occasion to complain of any want of prompt, cordial, and intelligent co-operation on their part.

The Commission has distributed gratuitously to the surgeons and officers of the volunteers, three thousand each, on an average, of five concise treatises on the best means of preserving health in camps, and on the treatment of the sick and wounded in camp and the battle-field. As the surgeons of the volunteer army are almost altogether drawn from civil practice, and as no books, or even circulars of instruction in



regard to their novel responsibilities, have yet been supplied them by Government, these modest works have been found of considerable value.

#### INQUIRY.

After the inspection of each camp or post, the Inspector is required to make an elaborate report upon its condition. This report consists mainly of written answers in the most exact and concise form to a series of printed questions, one hundred and eighty in number, covering every generally important point connected with the sanitary condition of the army.

More than four hundred of these reports have been received by the Commission. Their results are carefully tabulated, and suitable digests prepared by an accomplished actuary. The Commission is not without hope, if it should be enabled to continue its operations, eventually to lay before the country a body of military medical statistics more complete, searching, and trustworthy than any now in existence.

Information as to the condition of the army is obtained also from other sources. The Assistant Secretaries of the Commission, Dr. J. S. Newberry, Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, and Dr. J. H. Douglas, each having superintendence of a different geographical department, make, from time to time, reports in a more general form than those of the Inspectors.

In certain cases, special agents are employed, and special investigations made. (See notes on Bull Run, in Appendix.) Valuable reports have likewise been furnished by members of the medical staff; and members of the Commission have, themselves, undertaken investigations requiring special scientific knowledge.

#### CONDITION OF THE VOLUNTEER ARMY.

A brief statement of the condition, in certain respects, in which the army was found during the months of September and October, so far as this can be deduced from the reports of inspection made during those months, will best illustrate the character of the information obtained, and will serve to indicate the points to which it seems most desirable the attention of Government should be directed.



The number of regimental returns from which the statistics to be presented will have been derived is two hundred, and they will accurately indicate the condition of the army in the particulars specified, so far as the condition of the regiments in question, taken at random, and some from each division of the army in the field, was at the time of inspection fairly representative of the condition of the whole. More general statements will be introduced where this is known not to be the case, or when, for other reasons, it appears to be necessary to fairly present the character of the information which has been collected by the Commission.

Of these returns, thirty-seven (37) were from regiments recruited in New England; one hundred and one (101) were from regiments recruited in the Middle States, including Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware; sixty-two (62) were from regiments recruited in the Western States, including Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

*Time of Recruiting.*—The time occupied in recruiting each of these regiments averaged six (6) weeks, the shortest period being ten (10) days, the longest about three (3) months.

*Nativity.*—In seventy-six and a half ( $76\frac{1}{2}$ ) per cent. of the regiments inspected, native Americans were found to constitute the majority.

In six and a half ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ ) per cent. there was a majority of Germans; in five and a half ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) of Irish; and in five and a half ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) the number of native born and foreign born was about equal. Of one (1) per cent. the returns give no information on this point.

The relative proportion of foreigners and native born in the volunteer army cannot, at present, be stated with accuracy. It is certain, however, that it is not true, as has been stated, that the majority of the army is of foreign birth. It would probably be a near approximation to the truth to state that about two-thirds of our volunteer soldiers are American born, and nine-tenths citizens, educated under the laws of the Union, and in the English tongue.

*Age.*—From incomplete returns, the average age of the volunteers is judged to be a little below twenty-five (25) years. Somewhat more than one-half of their number are under

twenty-three (23.) The average age of the officers is about thirty-four (34.)

The number of men of any age between eighteen and forty is not far from double the number of those five years older. For example, the number of those twenty years old is double the number of those at twenty-five.

It is important that the degree of liability to death from disease in war, at different ages, should be ascertained. Data are accumulating which will serve to determine this. It is still more important to determine the degree of liability to sickness at different ages, in army life, especially as this affects the question of the relative efficiency of men, as soldiers, at different ages. For this purpose, no sufficient records are at present made by the surgeons of the army, and it is not practicable for the Commission to supply the deficiency. An improvement in the medical record of the army in this particular is therefore desirable.

*Inspection of Recruits.*—In fifty-eight (58) per cent. of the regiments, there had been no pretence of a thorough inspection of recruits on enlistment.

In only nine (9) per cent. had there been a thorough re-inspection when or after they were mustered in.

The Commission took occasion soon after its organization to address the Governors of all loyal States on the need of more vigorous inspection of recruits. It is unfortunately certain, however, that this important duty has continued to be generally neglected or superficially performed.

A careful examination of the causes officially assigned for the discharge of 1,620 men from the army of the Potomac, as unfit for service, during the month of October, made by a committee of the Inspectors of the Commission, experienced in observation of military hospitals, leads to the startling conclusion that fully fifty-three per cent. of the whole number were thus discharged on account of disabilities that existed at and before their enlistment, and which any intelligent surgeon ought to have discovered on their inspection as recruits. This conclusion is sustained by information from other sources.

These men had each, probably, cost the Government at least one hundred dollars, for his pay, rations, clothing, transportation, medicines, &c., making an aggregate of over eighty thousand dollars, absolutely wasted on men who ought never to have been enlisted. Extending the calculation just suggested to the whole army, and for the whole period since the commencement of the campaign, it seems probable that a million of dollars has been lost by mere neglect of preliminary inspection. This pecuniary loss, however, is small compared with that caused by the diminution of efficiency which every corps suffers by the introduction of any considerable number of men unfit for service, constituting, as they do, more than anything else, the "*impedimenta*" of the army.

It is difficult to say how far the process of eliminating from the army men who should not have been permitted to join it can now be carried with safety, but it is manifestly desirable that the most decided cases of disability be ascertained by a faithful re-inspection, and discharged from service, and that medical and military considerations be more rigorously enforced in future enlistments. The regulation prescribing the age of eighteen as a minimum should be invariably insisted upon. Every rule, indeed, as to medical inspection of recruits for the regular army, is equally applicable to recruits for the volunteer army, and should be enforced with equal strictness. Recruits properly rejected by the inspectors of the former have, in many cases, been allowed to enlist as volunteers, and have been invalided after a few weeks or months of service.

Another point connected with the volunteer recruiting service deserves more attention than it has received : the danger, namely, that follows the enlistment of men notoriously vicious and degraded. In the regular service, persons of this class are, from the very moment of enlistment, controlled in some degree by the habits of command that have been acquired by their officers, and by the systematic and exact discipline they are thus enabled to enforce. But, among newly-organized volunteers, this cannot be expected, until the whole command has been for some considerable time in service, and until the majority of the men have become soldiers in reality, as well as in name. While this educational process is going



on, the mere presence in camp of half a dozen dissolute, insubordinate, and ruffianly men tends very much to retard the progress in discipline of the whole command. They set an example of unwholesome indulgence of every kind, thwart all measures for the sanitary improvement of the camp, are the first subjects of disease, and the first to turn their backs on the enemy. Whatever disloyalty and desertion have occurred among our soldiers, may generally be traced to persons of this class. It is to be hoped that all such will hereafter be rigorously excluded from the people's army.

It is also desirable that sanitary regulations at the various depots for volunteer troops be strictly enforced; that every recruit be vaccinated immediately on enlistment; and that increased attention be paid to the hygienic care of military companies in transitu by railroad and by transports.

*Situation of Camps.*—Camp sites have been generally selected for military reasons alone, and with little if any regard to sanitary considerations. The regimental surgeon has seldom been consulted on the subject. In many instances disease is directly traceable to this omission.

One-fourth the regiments were found encamped on sites which had previously been occupied by others.

Except at Cairo and in the prairie region, camps have been generally formed on the tops and sides of hills. During the hot weather, nearly one-half were in the shade of woods—an objectionable circumstance.

*Water.*—Water of wholesome quality was found within convenient distance of the camp in all but two cases. The regiments encamped at Cairo were abundantly supplied with ice during the hot weather.

*Occupation of Camp Sites.*—The average occupation of a camp site, up to the date of inspection, had been twenty-one days. In the East this period has generally been largely exceeded, and regiments have frequently occupied the same ground much longer than is safe or advisable.

*Drainage, natural.*—Fortunately in those cases where the drainage by inclination was the most difficult, the soil and sub-soil has been porous and favorable to drainage by filtration. As the immediate inconvenience occasioned by a



shower of rain in these flat sides led to the practice of better judgment in artificial drainage than has generally obtained on the hill sites, there has been less prejudice to health from poor drainage in the fixed camps at the West than in those of the Armies of the Potomac and Western Virginia, which have generally been upon clay soils or over retentive sub-soils. There has been, for instance, not half as much rheumatism at Cairo as in the eastern camps and those of Western Virginia.

*Drainage, artificial.*—Until recently, the artificial drainage of camps, when first visited by the Inspectors, has been found very imperfect—the men of each tent being left in most cases to form drains around it according to their own judgment. In consequence of their ignorance, unskilfulness, or indolence, the drains have often been useless, and not unfrequently have aggravated the evil they were designed to remedy. As soon, however, as good examples became frequent, the practice of a systematic arrangement began to be generally adopted. The majority of volunteer camps are now at least as well drained as those of the regulars. The average depth of the camp drains is about six inches. In about one-half the camps the drains were found more or less clogged, owing to their crookedness and imperfect construction, and to want of proper attention in keeping them clean.

The consequences of neglecting drainage are frequently apparent on inspection of the sick list, and more detailed regulations with regard to camp drainage are desirable. At present it seems to be nobody's business to lay out a system of drains. Without a complete system, drainage can seldom be effective.

*Camp Arrangement.*—In general, the plan for laying out a camp supplied in the *Army Regulations*, is approximately followed, but the tents are placed more closely together than the minimum there prescribed. The difficulty of drainage is thus increased, and the narrow spaces between the tents, difficult to be swept, become half-concealed receptacles for rubbish.

*Tent Accommodation.*—Six men are usually provided with lodging in one of the "wedge" tents. In the Sibley tent from twelve to sixteen; of late sometimes twenty.

*Ventilation.*—Tents are seldom tolerably ventilated at night. Of the regiments under consideration occupying the wedge tents, none were found in which the Inspectors were satisfied that proper attention was paid to ventilation, and it was obvious in some cases that the men suffered in health in consequence. The Sibley tent is more convenient of ventilation, and cannot as well be tightly closed as the wedge form. The Commission warned the Department, in August, of the evil likely to ensue from the difficulty of ventilating the wedge tents. It is now found that typhus is occurring more frequently in the regiments occupying these tents than in those that have the Sibley—the ratio being 29.5 to 23. The Massachusetts Seventh Volunteers, Colonel Davis, Surgeon Holman, is the only volunteer regiment reported, to the present date, in which a thorough ventilation of the wedge tent has been generally established. It was here induced by the occurrence of typhoid fever, and by this, prominently among other means employed for the same end, the most gratifying, and, at this season unusual, result of banishing this formidable disease has been obtained.

The Inspectors have advised the striking of each tent once a week, for the purpose of giving it a perfect cleansing and airing, and the practice is being of late quite generally adopted.

*Tents.*—Fifty-eight (58) per cent. of the regiments had been provided with the wedge tent, ten (10) with the wall tent, seven (7) with the bell tent, nineteen (19) with the Sibley, others not stated. Ninety per cent. of these were made of good canvas; the remainder were of twilled cotton or drilling, or so old as to be leaky.

*Flooring.*—Twenty-four (24) per cent. of the regiments were provided with tent flooring of boards, twenty (20) per cent. with India-rubber cloth; in twenty-one (21) per cent. straw or branches were used for this purpose, and in thirty-five (35) per cent. the men slept on the ground.

The following table shows the relative proportion of these several kinds of flooring in the three great divisions of the army. The important influence it will be doubtless found to exert on the health of the men justifies especial inquiry into the subject:

	ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.	WESTERN VIRGINIA.	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.
Board flooring.....	25	20	23
India-rubber cloth.....	25	7	10
Straw or fir branches.....	19	23	23
None.....	31	50	44
	100	100	100

The following table shows the ratio of sick men per thousand in regiments which had been supplied respectively with India-rubber blankets; wooden tent-floors; straw, fir boughs, or cedar boughs; and in those which have been sleeping on the bare ground. The data are taken from the returns of 120 regiments, and chiefly in November:

REGIMENTS SLEEPING ON—	ENTIRE NUMBER OF REGIMENTS.	THOSE IN WESTERN VIRGINIA EXCLUDED.
	Average ratio for 1,000.	Average ratio for 1,000.
Wood.....	75.7	61.5
India-rubber.....	60.9	60.9
Bare ground.....	91.3	69.3
Straw or fir boughs.....	77.5	45.8

As the forces in Western Virginia were, as a rule, unprovided with rubber blankets, and as they have suffered special hardships in other respects, they are excluded from the comparison in the second column.

As rubber blankets had not, at the time the data were collected, been issued by Government, it is probable that the regiments furnished with them had also been better provided for than usual in other respects, and that those sleeping on the bare ground were generally at a greater distance from the supply depots than the others, and consequently not as well provided for in other respects.

A limited examination of the diseases of the army indicates that the largest proportion of those of typhoid type occur with regiments sleeping on rubber blankets, the least with those on straw or boughs; the largest proportion of catarrhal, with regiments on wooden floors, the least with those on the ground; the largest of rheumatism, with those on wood, the smallest with those on straw or boughs; the largest of malarial, with those on the ground, the least with those on straw or boughs.

As had been presumed by the Commission, it has been proved that the best bed for soldiers in camp, can, with a little skill, be formed from fir or cedar spray, whenever it can be obtained in sufficient quantity. The Inspectors have from



the outset been instructed to advise its use whenever practicable. It should be frequently removed and burned, after a thorough cleansing of the tent floor, the tents being struck for the purpose.

Experienced officers generally object to the board floors in tents. They are thought to be more damp than the ground itself and they offer an opportunity for the collection of rubbish and dirt, and make them difficult of removal.

*Privies.*—Privies had been established in all the camps inspected, except those of two or three regiments recently mustered in.

In eighty (80) per cent. of the camps, they are reported to be properly arranged and kept in proper order, no offensive odor drifting from them. In twenty (20) per cent., proper attention was not given to them, and the health of the men was more or less seriously endangered in consequence.

In sixty-eight (68) per cent. of the camps, the men seemed to be effectively restricted to the use of privies. In thirty-two (32) per cent., the proper prohibition was found by the inspectors not to be strictly enforced.

In thirty-five (35) per cent., the men were allowed, at least at night, to urinate within the camp limits. Night buckets, which are regularly provided, one for each tent, in the British service, are nowhere in use. The Commission does not think it desirable that they should be added to the camp furniture, believing that their cleaning would be too frequently neglected.

*Disposition of Offal.*—In seventy-seven (77) per cent. of the volunteer camps, slops, refuse, and offal are systematically removed to a distance from camp by a daily detail of men.

In twenty-three (23) per cent., this duty was performed irregularly, or very imperfectly. In nineteen of these twenty-three camps, the Inspectors found odors of decay and putrefaction perceptible in and about the tents and streets.

*Stables.*—Stables are sometimes found actually within the camps, and quite frequently within half the distance prescribed by the *Regulations*.

In rather more than fifty (50) per cent. of the camps, the manure and litter of the horses are allowed to accumulate for



an indefinite period. In the rest, this source of danger is removed to a distance, or burnt, once a week, or oftener.

*Camp Police, in general.*—Of the camps inspected, five (5) per cent. were in admirable order, forty-five per cent. fairly clean, and well policed. The condition of twenty-six (26) per cent. was negligent and slovenly, and that of twenty-four (24) per cent. decidedly bad, filthy, and dangerous.

In those camps which are referred to as in a neglected and positively bad condition, some or all of the following sources of danger to the health of the men were found to exist, viz.: drains wanting or clogged up, and retentive of stagnant water; the camp streets and spaces between the tents littered with refuse food and other rubbish, sometimes in an offensive state of decomposition; slops deposited in pits within the camp limits, or thrown out broadcast; heaps of manure and offal close to the camp, and the privies neglected.

In about two-thirds of the camps, the streets were found fairly clean, but in only about one-third were the edges of tents, the spaces between them, and the camp drains, entirely free from litter and rubbish.

On the whole, a very marked and gratifying improvement in the custom of the volunteer regiments in respect of camp police has occurred during the summer. Faults in this respect, which were at one time generally regarded as unworthy of the attention of regimental officers, are now considered disgraceful, and the number of camps in which officers and men take pride in maintaining an exact and severe camp police is rapidly increasing.

*Clothing.*—The shirts used by the men were found to be of poor quality in twenty-six (26) per cent. of the regiments examined. In seventy-four (74) per cent. they were of the Regulation quality. In ninety-four (94) per cent. the men had been provided with two shirts each. In four and a half ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) per cent. they had but one each, and in the remainder only a part were properly supplied.

A want in this and other articles of clothing frequently arises from the fact that the men have sold or bartered away a part of what they have received.

In nothing are the volunteer officers more remiss of their duty than in that of ascertaining such deficiencies, and in making them good upon a charge against the pay of those who are responsible for them. A proper overstock of clothing is seldom kept in regiments for this purpose. Officers have often been known to degrade themselves, their Government, and their commands, by begging for supplies of clothing, as a charity, which their men were abundantly able to pay for, and which it was their duty to obtain for them and make them pay for.

Eighty-two (82) per cent. of the regiments were well supplied with overcoats, and seven (7) per cent. partly so. In eleven (11) per cent. there were none at the time of the inspection. In only three (3) per cent. of the regiments were the overcoats of poor quality. Seventy-five (75) per cent. of the regiments were provided with good cloth body coats; the remainder with flannel sack coats or cloth jackets.

Of two hundred regiments, all were provided with pantaloons—one hundred and seventy-five sufficiently, eight indifferently, seventeen very poorly.

Men have been frequently seen during the summer on duty and on parade in their drawers alone.

In seventy-five (75) per cent. of the regiments, one good blanket had been issued to each soldier. In twenty (20) per cent. two had been provided; these being, however, in most cases, of inferior quality. In five (5) per cent. the men had never all received each a blanket.

Deficiencies in the regulation allowance of clothing, noted in October, have since been generally made good. Where they have not, it is nearly in every case owing to the ignorance, negligence, or knavery of regimental and company officers. There are ample supplies of all necessary articles of clothing, including gloves and socks, in the principal depots, from which all wants still existing can be supplied at short notice upon the requisitions of the proper officers.

Never, probably, was so large an army as well supplied at a similar period of a great war.

*Cleanliness.*—In about eighty (80) per cent. of the regiments, the officers claimed that they gave systematic attention to the personal cleanliness of the men; but in very few instances—almost none—is this attention what it should be. The washing of the feet is very rarely enforced as a military duty, and in not more than six per cent. of the regiments did the Inspectors believe, from personal observation, that the officers strictly enforced the *Army Regulations* in respect of washing the head and neck. In eighty per cent. of the regiments, the officers reported that the men washed their shirts at least weekly; in the remainder the want of a change was sometimes given as a reason for this neglect. In 90 per cent. the officers professed to comply with the *Army Regulations* in regard to the removal of dirt from their woollen clothing; but, from observation, it is obvious that this is very rarely done in a thorough manner.

The volunteer army is more unsoldierlike in respect to matters of this kind, and its improvement has been slower in them than in any other. That scrupulous neatness and exactness in the care of articles of dress and equipment, which gives so much occupation to regular soldiers, and which is not only important to be observed for the sake of their health, but as presenting the surest evidence of a high condition of discipline and efficiency in all other respects, is, as yet, entirely unknown. A proper military inspection scarcely ever occurs in a volunteer regiment. Recently, the Inspectors of the Commission have been required to return answers to the question: “*Are officers and soldiers on duty allowed to wear their coats partially buttoned, or to follow personal inclination in matters proper to be made uniform and regular?*” In nearly seventy-five (75) per cent., officers, when advised with on this point, confessed that very little attention was paid to such matters, and in most instances could not understand the object of the inquiry, thus showing that they had not a proper appreciation of the value of uniformity, of their own duties, or of the trouble that would be saved them in their duties by a strict enforcement of the intention of the *Regulations* in this respect.



A chief advantage of the uniform of military bodies, is the facility it affords for keeping their equipments in serviceable order. When every man is expected to appear, in all matters of dress, the exact counterpart of every other man, the attention of the officer is arrested by a very slight neglect of proper care of his equipment on the part of any individual. On the principle of the proverb, "A stitch in time saves nine," it is easier and cheaper, for both officer and private, that no day passes without every stitch of clothing, every strap, buckle, and button being put in the best possible condition. In European armies every man is required to be provided with, and constantly carry about him, not only articles necessary for the repair of his clothing, belts, &c., but conveniences for cleaning both his person and clothing; as, for instance, a switch or cat for whipping dust to the surface of the cloth, and a brush to remove it; oil, emery, whiting, blacking and brushes, for straps, shoes, and buttons.

In the British army, every private is furnished with a tooth brush, which he is required to show in his knapsack at the Sunday morning inspection. The economy of this regulation may be inferred from the prevalence of toothache and swollen faces in our camps.

Among volunteers it is somewhat rarely that men are found provided with the few articles which are essential to an economical care of their clothing; still more unfrequently are they found possessed of those which are requisite to the maintenance of health in crowded camps and quarters. This want also stands directly in the way of the development of that *esprit du corps* which is as essential to military efficiency as to health, and is the only reason which can be assigned for the greater difficulty which the Inspectors have found in inducing a marked improvement in this direction, than in any other.

It seems desirable, therefore, that such articles should be made a part of the Government supplies, and that every man should be required to show that he has them properly stowed in his knapsack, at each Sunday morning inspection—new issues from the quartermaster being made to supply losses in the same manner as of clothing, the value of all beyond the



yearly allowance being deducted from the monthly pay of those making this necessary.

Slovenliness is our most characteristic national vice. Frontier necessities and costly labor account in a measure for this. The indirect influence exerted upon all parts of the country by a peculiar local system of labor explains more. The city of Washington illustrates the vice and the penalty that is paid for it. Structures designed in themselves to be commensurate with and typical of the moral grandeur of a great republic, are offences against good taste, like precious stones on dirty hands, when seen from out of the unmitigated shabbiness and filth of the unsewered, unpaved, unpoliced streets of a collocation of the houses of citizens who cannot remedy the evil. "The National Hotel sickness" was a beneficent reproof of the narrow policy which demands it of them. That which was lost by it, could have been cheaply saved, at an expense ten times as great as would be the necessary cost of making Washington a healthful, beautiful, and appropriate rural metropolis; an attraction, an example, and an unceasing influence for good, in this way, to the whole nation. Yet we compel our most valued public servants to reside in this capital, and with abundant evidence that similar causes are liable to induce, any day, a far more deadly and sweeping pestilence, do nothing to remove them.

While the simplest, though most absolute, sanitary laws are thus disregarded in high places, it need not be thought strange that the Inspectors find it peculiarly difficult, even after typhus has entered the camps, to make the volunteer officers realize the actual military necessity upon which the army regulations, with reference to the personal cleanliness of the men, are based.

If five hundred thousand of our young men could be made to acquire something of the characteristic habits of soldiers in respect to the care of their habitations, their persons, and their clothing, by the training of this war, the good which they would afterwards do as unconscious missionaries of a healthful reform throughout the country, would be by no means valueless to the nation.

But whatever measures can be taken which will tend materially to improve the habits of the volunteers in this respect, will undoubtedly be amply repaid in their greater health and better spirit in their duty.

The recommendation made to the Department, in August, that each soldier should be provided with a clothes brush, shoe brush, tooth brush, comb, and towel, adapted to be carried snugly in the knapsack, and for which he should be required to account weekly, is therefore respectfully renewed.

*Food.*—The regulation articles of food are universally acknowledged to be had in great abundance, and their quality is, in nearly all respects, generally satisfactory to the men.

The chief complaint is want of fresh vegetables, and this is mainly confined to regiments in which, through the neglect of the officers, company funds are wanting.

Desiccated vegetables are used to some extent, but are not popular, because the men have not learned how to cook them. Regulars have been found to prefer them to fresh vegetables.

At the commencement of the campaign, captains of companies generally neglected to make requisitions for rations in proper form, and it was often said that they could never be made to do so. As such requisitions are the only honest foundation of the army system of supply, the Inspectors were directed to give particular instructions on this subject, and to urge strenuously their adoption. The result has been satisfactory. Requisitions are now almost universally made in proper form, the exceptions being in the case of new regiments, and in these only for a short time after they are mustered into service.

*Company Funds.*—The Commission, soon after its organization, recommended to the proper department of Government, as an important sanitary measure, the issuing of an order by which the commutation of rations, or sale to Government of surplus food, otherwise wasted, would be facilitated, and volunteers thus encouraged to vary their diet by the substitution of articles not supplied in the ration. Such an order was at length issued, and, though the volunteers are very slow to comprehend it, or believe in the

advantages which it offers, a very satisfactory advance in this respect is recently reported.

In forty per cent. of the regiments inspected during the month of November a company fund existed in every company; they had been formed also in several companies of many other regiments. In one hundred and thirty-six out of two hundred inspected prior to November 1st, not a single company fund had been commenced.

The company fund is the soldier's only resource for many articles indispensable to his health, comfort, and efficiency, *e. g.*, fresh vegetables, butter, milk, pepper, (no condiment but salt being supplied by Government;) many utensils required for cooking and saving rations; knives, forks, spoons, brushes, blacking, &c. Cavalry and artillery men depend on it for many other articles required for their efficiency and creditable appearance. Its formation, therefore, promotes the health of a regiment not only directly, but also by improving the morale, soldierly feeling, and self-respect of the men, which have no small influence on their physical condition.

It may be added that the existence of a company fund operates as a check on frauds on the Commissary and Quartermaster's Departments, and tends to diminish the danger of disease to which sutler's shops expose the men.

In one case fifty-seven (57) dollars have been saved in a month, the men, according to their own testimony, having fared well. The saving ought to amount to at least six thousand dollars per annum for a regiment of one thousand men, and this amount is wasted whenever company funds do not exist.\*

The Inspectors of the Commission have all done much to remove objections, and induce the attempt to form the fund in every company they have visited; and in the Army of the Potomac one of them has for some time been almost exclusively employed in demonstrating its practicability and advantages.

*Hospital Fund.*—Analogous to the company fund, and of like importance, is the hospital fund, raised in similar manner, by the re-sale to Government of the rations not needed by men while in hospital; or, in other words, by the

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\*Company savings of one hundred dollars a month have been more recently reported.



commutation of these rations for their money value. On this fund the volunteers have to rely for hospital bedding and clothing, and for all the extra delicacies and medical and other appliances which the sick and convalescent require. Yet it exists in the regimental hospitals of not more than one-third of the volunteer regiments now in the field.

*Cooking.*—The volunteers do not, as a general rule, take kindly to cooking, but of late no serious complaint on this score has been reported. The system of rotation of cooks that prevails in the regular army is not generally adopted, and the manner of selecting cooks is very varied.

Army cooking is generally done by fires made in trenches, in the most simple and primitive manner. Not more than ten per cent. of the regiments inspected use cooking stoves of any pattern. Several which employed them for a time have given them up and adopted trenches and an open fire, as practically more efficient and convenient under the circumstances.

The cooking of the volunteers constantly improves, and, however rude, is probably already more wholesome than that which the average of the men have been subject to before enlistment, because some of the most deleterious modes of cooking to which they have been accustomed are not practicable in camps. It must be added, however, that peddlers of “pies” and other ill-prepared and injurious articles are generally admitted into camp with little, if any, restriction, and are subject to no efficient supervision. Fluctuations on the sick list have been, in certain cases, found to be directly corresponding with the greater or less facility of access to the men given the pie-peddlers.

A regular and thorough inspection of the contents of all peddlers’ wagons coming to the camp has been instituted by order of the Colonel, at the suggestion of an Inspector of the Commission, in several regiments, with manifest advantage. If an inspection of markets is a necessary civic office, an inspection of peddlers is certainly a necessary office for our camps. There would seem to be occasion for a general order or regulation on this subject.

*Sutlers.*—In this connection reference cannot be avoided to the evil which often comes to the men from the sutler’s shop.



There would be little objection to the present sutler system were the instructions of the *Army Regulations* thoroughly carried out. But it is unquestionably true that proper control and supervision of the sutler is scarcely ever maintained in volunteer regiments.

There is reason to believe that corrupt bargains have been formed in certain instances between the sutler and officers of his regiment; that in other cases officers receive presents of wine from the sutler; that sutlers have used their influence and power over the men to prevent them saving from their pay for the sake of their families, and that they sometimes engage in the secret sale of spirits.

Of two hundred regiments inspected in September and October, twelve (12) were without sutlers. Of the one hundred and eighty-eight (188) sutlers, one hundred and three (103) were appointed by the colonels of the regiments, sixty-three (63) by the Secretary of War, fourteen (14) by a board of regimental officers, five (5) by Governors of States, and the appointment of three (3) was not ascertained.

In one hundred and four (104) regiments a tariff of prices for the sutler's shop was said to have been established, although it was very rarely "conspicuously posted," as required by the *Regulations*. It had been fixed in some instances by a regimental board or council, and in others by the sutler himself. In eighty (80) regiments the price of articles sold was not fixed, and in four (4) the fact was not reported.\*

*Drunkenness.*—In thirty-one (31) regiments the sutler was allowed to sell liquor. In one hundred and sixty-nine (169) the officers reported that the sale was prohibited. In one hundred and seventy-seven (177) it appeared that the men did, in fact, get liquor with more or less freedom and facility

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\*The following is an extract from the communication of a surgeon of a volunteer regiment, addressed to the Commission:

"In our regiment we have the best sutlers on the Potomac; nevertheless they prove, in actual practice, an unmitigated curse. Some of the men throw their rations away, and literally live on sutler's trash. Others will eat a full ration, and then go straight to the sutler's and eat three or four villainous pies. Many of these have been fric'd in condemned lard a week before the soldier eats them. The result is camp *diarrhœa*, *dysentery*, and all their concomitant evils.

"Sutlers are a two-fold evil. By them the soldier is tempted to spend his earnings, which should be saved for a purpose, and is made sick in the same transaction. My observation and experience in camp prove clearly that to keep a soldier *healthy* you must confine him to plain and regular rations.

"If Congress would pass a *law*, the tendency of which would be to *compel* the soldiers to live on the Government rations only, it would prove a blessing of infinite value to the service."

from the sutlers or otherwise. In twenty-three (23) the Inspectors were satisfied that the men did not often or readily obtain liquor.

It must not be understood, however, that in all the regiments which had access to liquor there was any serious habitual excess in its use. Intoxication was acknowledged to be common in only six (6) regiments. In thirty-one (31) it was said to occasionally occur, though not deemed a serious evil; and in one hundred and sixty-three (163) the Inspectors were assured, and had no reason to doubt, that it was very rare. In the majority of regiments there is very little dram-drinking, except shortly after pay-day. The volunteers are believed to be more temperate than any European army. Most of the liquor drunk by the volunteers is probably obtained from the pie-peddlers. When other means fail, it is conveyed in the pies.

In certain regiments containing a large per centage of Germans, lager beer has been freely used. There is evidence before the Commission tending to show that its use (at least during the summer) was beneficial, and that disorders of the bowels were less frequent in companies regularly supplied with it in moderation than in other companies of the same regiment.

*Discipline.*—The daily average of men in the guard-house was reported to have been:

In 4 regiments.....	7	In 41 regiments .....	2
8    "       .....	6	57   "       .....	1
17   "       .....	5	4    "       .....	less than one.
15   "       .....	4	15   "       .....	not stated.
39   "       .....	3		

The average is  $2\frac{6}{10}$  men to each regiment.

Men are generally kept effectually within camp limits. The average daily absences from camp were eight for each regiment.

The Inspectors of the Commission have been instructed to give attention to certain matters solely as tests of discipline. The reason for this is explained in the following resolutions, adopted by the Commission in July:

*Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission, in their endeavors to promote temperance, cleanliness, and comfort among the troops, have become convinced that the first sanitary law in camp and among soldiers is *military* discipline; and

that unless this is vigorously asserted and enforced, it is useless to attempt, and impossible to effect, by any secondary means, the great end they propose, which is the health and happiness of the army.

“*Resolved*, That looking only to the health and comfort of the troops, it is our profound conviction that any special relaxation of military discipline in favor of volunteer troops, based either upon their supposed unwillingness or inability to endure it, or upon the alleged expectation of the public, is a fallacious policy, and fraught with peril to the lives of the men and the success of the national cause; and that, speaking in the name of the families and the communities from which the volunteers come, and in the name of humanity and religion, we implore that the most thorough system of military discipline be carried out with the officers and men of the volunteer force, as the first and essential condition of their health, comfort, and morality.

“*Resolved*, That the health, and comfort, and efficiency of the men, is mainly dependent on the uninterrupted presence, the personal watchfulness, and the rigid authority of the regimental and company officers; and that all the great defects, whether in the commissariat or in the police of camps, are radically due to the absence of officers from their posts, and to the laxity of the discipline to which they are themselves accustomed—a laxity which would never be tolerated among regulars, and which, while tolerated among our soldiers, will make our force a crowd of armed men rather than an army.

“*Resolved*, That it is the public conviction of this Commission that the soldiers themselves, *in their painful experience of the want of leaders and protectors*, would heartily welcome a rigid discipline exerted over their officers and themselves; that the public would hail with joy the inauguration of a decisive, prompt, and rigid rule, extending alike to officers and men; and that any despondency or doubt connected with our military and national prospects, or with the health and security of our troops, would disappear with the first indications of rigid order enforced with impartial authority throughout the whole army.”

The opinion is often expressed by professional soldiers that an effectively disciplined army can never be made of volunteers, and that as undisciplined men can only be used in war in limited numbers, chiefly to preserve the fighting force from excessive fatigue, it is a waste of the public resources to keep a large volunteer force in the field. Many volunteers express, in effect, their acquiescence in this view, when they say, “You cannot expect volunteers to be as particular as regulars”—an answer constantly given to the suggestions of the Inspectors, when they find a regiment the condition of which is in all respects disgraceful to its officers. To the consideration that this war is to be waged against volunteers, the reply of those who believe that only a large army of regulars can prosecute it to a successful end, is, that undisciplined forces are much better adapted for defensive than for offensive operations, and that volunteers can never be pushed



to the heart of the rebellion, however they may hack at its extremities. This view is habitually sustained by those whose position entitles their judgment to be regarded with respect, and the question whether volunteers can be effectively disciplined thus becomes a serious one for the nation, and may be thought to give an importance to the information obtained by the Commission, aside from its sanitary bearing.

Discipline is a habit of prompt and exact obedience under certain authority. Being a habit, it cannot be taken on, except by a more or less rapid process of acquirement. So long as progress is being made, a satisfactory state of discipline is not only to be thought yet possible of attainment, but it may be probable.

There have been a few regiments of volunteers in which no progress in discipline during a considerable period could be observed. Special causes were obvious in every such case, and they were notoriously exceptional in character. There is no room for doubt that in a large majority of the volunteer regiments there has been from month to month a perceptible advance in discipline.

This is true not only of those regiments which have been commanded by officers educated at West Point, but of those the commanders of which six months ago had never had a sword or musket in their hands, never read a military book, never saw a company of soldiers. It is true not only of regiments of volunteers the officers of which were selected by the War Department or by Governors, but of those which elected their officers. It cannot even be said that a very marked difference in the progress of these different classes is to be observed. The advantage of educated and appointed officers over elected civilians is clearly manifest only in the fact that the former have in no case, as far as known to the Commission, allowed their regiments to fall into the rare, exceptional, excessively demoralized condition before referred to. Regiments of volunteers having an unusual strength of West Point officers have in all cases been found in a fair state of discipline, so that if an order with reference to matters of camp police was given at the suggestion of an Inspector of the Commission, it could be assumed that it would not be



neglected. But this has been equally true of many regiments whose officers were taken from civil life and elected.

It cannot of course be concluded that military education and experience is of no value, nor that there are no disadvantages attending the election of officers. But it may be fairly concluded that a special military education is not at all necessary to adequate appreciation of the value of discipline or to the enforcement of discipline. There is, indeed, room for doubt if the conviction which prevails with regular officers of the difficulty of enforcing discipline with volunteers, and their consequent hesitation and endeavors to accommodate their habits to the supposed necessity for moderation in the exercise of authority in dealing with volunteers, is not a greater hindrance to their progress in discipline than the inexperience of the officers chosen from among civilians.

The disadvantage of the latter is certainly less, and the progress of their commands in discipline greater, compared with that of regulars and with volunteers commanded by regulars, than the Commission, influenced by the judgment of experienced military advisers, had been led to expect. In not a few cases where the officers of a regiment appeared at the outset peculiarly incompetent, quite careless of discipline and incapable of establishing it, after a few months a very decided improvement has been observed.

To account for this, it is only necessary to reflect that the habit of command grows, as well as the habit of obedience, and that if an officer does not habitually perform his proper duties, and see that the orders which, in the performance of his duties, it is necessary he should give, are carried out, discomfort is sure to result both to himself and to his command. Such officers, however popular they may have been when elected, soon become aware that the accidents, privations, and discomforts to which their men, through their neglect, are subject, are bringing ridicule, contempt, and hatred upon themselves, and they are thus driven to resign, or they fall into practices which cannot be overlooked by higher authority, and which lead to their dismissal, or they yield more and more to the habit of military authority, and will gradually

learn that the simplest, and easiest, and most popular course is that of the most complete discipline.

Thus, throughout the volunteer army, the Commission has of late been gratified to find the habit slowly forming and strengthening, the general absence of which in July seemed to involve the greatest danger to health.

Commiseration for what are erroneously considered technical offenders, and moderation or neglect in dealing with them, is costing the country more lives by far than the bullets of the enemy, and is adding many millions to the expense of the war. A strict enforcement of the *Army Regulations* would do more to prevent disease than all that the Commission can recommend to be done by other means. Neglect in their enforcement will be due less, hereafter, the Commission is convinced, to the ignorance and inefficiency of regimental and company officers, than to the inadequacy of the general staffs for their proper inspection, instruction, and superintendence. And it may here be proper to observe, that causes of disease and death can often be traced with great confidence to the occupation of military officers of high rank in merely clerical duties, and to delays and neglects which arise from the want of sufficient aids and clerks in administrative offices and headquarters. There is no office of Government, civil or military, with which the Commission has had frequent communication, which is not charged with such a weight of duties that it is impossible they can be got through with, except at an expense of labor to certain individuals, which cannot be long sustained without crippling the faculties which the good of the country needs to have constantly exercised in them.

*Recreations.*—About one-fifth ( $\frac{1}{5}$ ) of the regiments possessed libraries, mostly of religious books. They were generally donations made to the chaplain.\*

There is an intense demand for books and periodicals, generally of the lighter class, and for newspapers. Reading

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\*There is a large religious element in the volunteer force. Religious organizations already exist in about half the regiments, and are rapidly increasing in number. The American Tract Society of Boston alone has distributed among them more than 20,000,000 pages, (equal to 60,000 12mo. volumes.) The number of letters written by the volunteers is remarkable, and a delightful indication of a fact which should remove all fear of a permanent military despotism in this country. In some regiments of 1,000 men it has averaged, for weeks, above six hundred a day. For all the regiments it must have been, through the summer, not far from three hundred. In some regiments, as Wilson's 22d Massachusetts, there is not a man unable to thus communicate with his friends at home.

matter of almost every class is gratefully received. The Inspectors are able to supply this demand in some small degree from the stores consigned to the Commission, but hospital patients are considered to have the first claim upon them. In one case, sixty dollars had been subscribed by a company from its ration savings for newspapers, a tent having been also got, which was used as a reading room.

In forty-two (42) regiments systematic athletic recreations (foot ball, base ball, &c.) were general. In one hundred and fifty-six (156) there were none. As to two (2) the fact is not reported. Where there are none, card-playing and other in-door games generally take their place. There is some evidence of serious mischief from gambling. Sharpers are believed to have enlisted for the purpose of making money as professional gamblers. One (a non-commissioned officer) is reported to have boasted of large gains. But however this may be, the practice prevents the men from maintaining both mind and body in health by active amusement in the open air.\*

Officers have not yet learned that it is a part of their duty to influence their men to this end. The observation was made by Baron Larrey: "After the accustomed military exercises, it is desirable that the men be subjected to regular hours, gymnastic amusements, and some mode of useful instruction. It is in this manner especially that mutual instruction established among the troops of the line is beneficial to the soldier and the State. Warlike music during their repasts or at their hours of recreation will contribute much to elevate the spirits of the soldier."—*Surgical Essays*, p. 178.

*Regimental Bands.*—Of two hundred (200) regiments, one hundred and forty-three (143) were provided with bands, fifty-three had none, and as to four, (4,) the fact is not reported. These bands are not generally of the first order, by any means, but are sufficiently good to please and interest the great majority of the soldiers. The men are almost universally proud of their band, particularly so if it be of more than average respectability, and like to compare

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\*In the Second New York Artillery, Major H. P. Roach commanding, the men are receiving a regular and thorough gymnastic training. In many respects this regiment is in a more satisfactory sanitary condition than any other inspected to the date of this report.



it with others which they think inferior. It is, in many instances, supported in considerable part by a self-imposed tax on the pay of both officers and men, which sometimes is as high as five per cent. The Inspectors of the Commission report that this contribution is cheerfully paid.

They also frequently report that they have been much struck by the value attached by the men to military music on a scale larger than that of the bugle, fife, and drum; and that they are satisfied of the wholesome and stimulating influence of even a third-rate band; that it raises the spirits of the men, warms their patriotism and their professional feeling as soldiers, and thus actually tends (not so remotely as might at first appear) to promote health, discipline, and efficiency. This is particularly important in view of the small extent to which healthful recreations have been introduced into camp.

Dr. J. H. Douglas, who was dispatched to Poolesville as Special Inspector immediately after the battle of Ball's Bluff, reported to the Commission on this subject, as follows:

"I am convinced that music in a camp after a battle, whether it is a successful or unsuccessful engagement, is of great importance, but especially so after a defeat. One of the soldiers said to me, 'I can fight with ten times more spirit, hearing the band play some of our national airs, than I can without the music.' Others of the wounded said they wished the bands would play more frequently."

Similar remarks have been often repeated.

It is hoped that every encouragement may be given to the formation and improvement of regimental bands, so far at least as a proper economy will permit.

*Remittances of Pay.*—The soldiers of fifty-seven (57) per cent. of the regiments had sent home to their families a considerable portion of their pay. Of the remainder, many had not been paid at the date of inspection.

The men are generally disposed to send home from half to three-fourths of their pay, if satisfied that they can do so safely.

It is respectfully submitted that the remittance of pay by the soldiers to those dependent on them should be encouraged and facilitated in every possible way.



The practice improves the moral tone of the soldier, by keeping up his sense of continuing relation with his family. It tends to preserve him from the vices of the camps, and from becoming a mere mercenary man-at-arms, and it thus makes him a better citizen when he returns to civil life. Being most abundantly fed and clothed by Government, he scarcely needs money, except occasionally to replace some lost or worn-out articles of clothing. He can, in fact, in most cases, scarcely spend it otherwise, without positive injury to himself. What is not sent home, is nearly certain to be laid out in unwholesome food (pies and the like) or unwholesome drink, to the damage of his health and the diminution of his efficiency, to the cost of Government. As a general rule, the regimental pay-day is immediately followed by an enlarged sick list, and a more populous guard-house.

It is confidently believed, that if fifty per cent. of that portion of the soldiers' pay which he spends in camp were thrown into the Potomac, he would, on the whole, be the gainer, the only loser being the sutler and the peddler.

Moreover, the neglect to remit the soldier's pay often leaves his family dependent on public or private charity. There is danger of a great pauper class being thus created, especially in our large cities; and the existence of this class, always most undesirable, will be peculiarly mischievous at the present critical period of increasing local taxation and general distress, weakening the national resources, and wearying the people of the present just and necessary war.

The disposition among our soldiers to remit the largest part of their pay should, therefore, be gladly encouraged and aided in every way by Government, nor should there be any hesitation in incurring any reasonable expenditure which will confirm and strengthen so gratifying a characteristic.

*Qualifications of Surgeons.*—The qualifications of regimental surgeons, in respect of education and experience, cannot, as a general rule, be ascertained by direct inquiry. The Inspectors, however, are usually able to form a decided opinion on this point by conversation, and by observing the mode in which the surgeon's duties are performed.

They report the surgeons of one hundred and seventy-six (176) out of two hundred (200) regiments in question, suffi-

ciently well qualified; four (4) incompetent; thirteen (13) of doubtful competence; and as to seven (7) regiments, the point is not reported upon, owing to the absence of the surgeon from his post, or to some other reason.

One hundred and twenty-nine (129) of these regimental surgeons are reported as not only competent, but as having discharged their duties with creditable energy and earnestness; twenty-five (25) to have done so with tolerable attentiveness; nineteen (19) to have been negligent and inert; of the surgeons of twenty-seven (27) regiments, no distinct opinion is expressed.

*Camp Hospitals.*—The arrangement, equipment, and supplies of the regimental hospitals are reported to have been in one hundred and five (105) of the regiments good; fifty-two (52) indifferent or tolerable; twenty-six (26) bad.

In thirteen (13) regiments no hospital whatever had been organized. As to four, there is no report.

The following table shows the aggregate strength of the two hundred regiments under consideration; the numbers sick in hospitals and in quarters; the proportion sick in hospitals and quarters to every 1,000 strength, and to every 1,000 cases on the sick list:

Of 200 regiments last visited previous to November, 1861.	Aggregate numbers.	PRESENT STRENGTH ON SICK LIST.	
		Proportion to every 1,000.	Proportion to every 1,000.
Strength when mustered.....	176,639		
Strength when inspected.....	176,042		
On sick list at the time of inspection.....	12,841	73	1,000
Sick in General Hospital.....	2,756	16	215
“ Regimental Hospital.....	2,973	17	231
“ Quarters .....	7,112	40	554

*Resumé.*—The table on the following page presents a resumé of the statements which have been given as to the condition of two hundred regiments. The returns of all inspections are reduced to a similar, exact, and concise form, and the precise condition of each regiment, of each brigade, of each division, of each department, and of the volunteers from each State, in all the particulars indicated, is separately tabulated at the office of the Commission. The causes of special disease may thus, sometimes, be demonstrated in a moment.

Table showing the Character of the 200 Regiments last inspected by the United States Sanitary Commission previous to 1st November, 1861.

No. of query in printed forms of inspection Returns.	SUBJECTS OF INQUIRY.												Yes.	No.	Not stated.	Doubtful.
	Extremely bad.	Very bad.	Bad.	Moderately bad.	Indifferent.	Moderately good.	Good.	Very good.	Extremely good.	Perfect.						
15 to 26 (inclus.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
27 to 36 "	....	6	37	12	38	37	68	1	....	....						1
37 to 40 "	....	3	20	25	38	56	25	26	2	....						5
41	7	36	53	65	29	7	3	11	....	....						10
49	1	2	9	11	37	33	104	7	....	....						2*
50 to 57 "	1	8	14	24	52	47	42	8	2	....						1
76 to 79 "	....	....	1	....	4	23	168	3	....	....						1
80 to 96 "	....	....	1	7	25	83	71	2	....	....						1
98 to 109 "	....	1	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....						3
111 to 113 "	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....						2
117 to 123 "	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....						3
124 to 133 "	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....						2
134 to 154 "	1	1	8	16	52	58	41	6	....	....						1
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\* In civilian's dress—not in military uniform.

NOTE.—This table may be read thus: Of the 200 camps last inspected previous to the 1st November, 1861, the character of the Camp Sites as to elevation, inclination, shade, shelter from wind, malaria, &c., was found to be, in six (6) cases "very bad;" in thirty-seven (37) "bad;" in thirty-eight (38) "indifferent;" in thirty-seven (37) "moderately good;" in sixty-eight (68) "good;" and in one (1) case "very good." Concerning one of the 200 hundred regiments, no statement was made.



## MORTALITY, DISEASES, AND CASUALTIES.

*Extent and General Character of Disease.*—In the Army of the Potomac, the average constant number of sick, per one thousand (1,000) men, has been sixty-three (63;) in the department of Western Virginia, one hundred and sixty-two (162;) in the Valley of the Mississippi, one hundred and sixteen (116.)

The average constant number of sick during the months of August, September, and October, in the regiments East and West, so far as visited, has been seventy-seven (77) per thousand. In this number all relieved from duty, from any sort of physical indisposition, however slight, are included.

At this rate, in order to secure a constantly active force of three hundred thousand men, (300,000,) the nation must maintain in the field an army of about three hundred and twenty-five thousand (325,000.)

The number of sick varies in different regiments from one-third of one (.33) per cent. to forty-nine (49) per cent.

The average length of time lost for active duty, in each case of sickness reported, has been a little more than five days (5.18.)

The health of the volunteers of the Army of the Potomac has been slightly better than that indicated by the returns respecting the health of the regular army, during the past year. The average health of the whole volunteer force in the field has been inferior to that of the regulars.

The average number of men constantly sick in the regiments from several of the States respectively, is nearly as follows:

New York,	(per 1,000 strong,)	55	New Jersey, (per 1,000 strong,)	36
Pennsylvania,	" " "	57	Wisconsin,	" " " 76
Massachusetts,	" " "	52	Indiana,	" " " 42
Connecticut,	" " "	49	Michigan,	" " " 76
Vermont,	" " "	88	Illinois,	" " " 156
Maine,	" " "	124	Ohio,	" " " 192

Data derived from regiments of States not included in the above list are too limited to be of use. The forces from Ohio and some other States have been, to a considerable extent, subject to unusual privations and exposure, during the campaign among the mountains of Western Virginia. A similar remark applies to those of Illinois, in Missouri. There is reason to think that the most sickness has occurred where regiments, raised in far northern and highland districts,



have been removed to lowland, fluvial, and seaboard districts; those, for instance, from Maine and Vermont, the ridge counties of New York, and from Minnesota, being more subject to distinct disease, as well as to demoralization or ill-defined nostalgia, than others in the Army of the Potomac. The healthiest regiments, physically and morally, have been those from the seaboard, as of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey; those from Rhode Island being probably the most fortunate in this respect, which fact, however, is chiefly due to their superior discipline early in the campaign.

It is difficult to compare the rate of sickness of foreign armies with that of the volunteers, because it is uncertain what degree of sickness in them places a man upon the sick list. Our volunteer surgeons are, undoubtedly, very accommodating in this respect, probably more so than the surgeons of the regular army or of foreign armies. It has happened in more than one instance that upon an order to advance against the enemy being given, every man of a regiment then on the sick list immediately reported himself well, was discharged, and shouldered his musket in the line of battle. It is probable that at least one-half those returned as sick by the surgeons of volunteers would do the same, under similar circumstances; that proportion being excused from duty on account of a cold in the head, severe fatigue, or a slight indigestion.

In the whole British army, in time of peace, 6.5 per cent. of the force otherwise available is reported constantly "in hospital." Of the British army in the Peninsula under the Duke of Wellington, 1808-1814, 21 per cent. (or 9,300 of an average force of 44,500 men) was constantly "sick in hospital." The number of sick ranged from 9 to 33 per cent. of the whole force at different periods.

These rates were exceeded in the British army of the Crimea. To maintain 100 effective soldiers in the field, it there became necessary to provide for 26.6 sick men. The annual rate of mortality was 3 per cent. by wounds, and 20 per cent. by disease.

The annual rate of mortality in the British army, at home and in time of peace, was from 1.1 to 2 per cent. in the ten years preceding 1847.

The average mortality of the Army of the Potomac has been, during the summer, at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., (allowance being made for those who die after their discharge, from causes connected with army life.) Imperfect data received from the West indicate a considerably larger rate for the whole army; probably it will not be far from 5 per cent. if sweeping epidemics should be escaped.

Mortality from *disease* in the Royal Navy of Great Britain is 140 per cent. greater in time of war than of peace; rising from an annual rate of 15 or 16 to one of 37 or 38 per 1,000 strength. The principal increase of the deaths in the navy, in time of war, is from disease; the amount of increase from casualties being commonly quite inconsiderable.

The following statement exhibits a classification of the cases of disease in the volunteer army during a portion of the campaign, showing, also, the per centage of casualties of all kinds, (wounds, accidents, &c.) for the same period, compared with like returns from the army of the Crimea, from April 10, 1854, to June 30, 1856:

	Army of the Potomac.	Army of the West.	Army of the Crimea, April 10, '54, to June 30, 1856.
Zymotic disease, (per cent.).....	61.1	76.4	69.8
Constitutional,       ".....	1.2	.6	.5
Local,               ".....	30.7	17.3	15.6
Developmental,       ".....	3.4	3.5	.1
Violence,           ".....	3.6	2.2	14.0
All cases.....	100.0	100.0	100.0

Two most important facts appear on the face of this table: first, the immense disproportion between cases of disease and of violence, fully justifying all that has been asserted as to the loss an army in the field must expect to sustain from these causes respectively; and, secondly, the great excess of zymotic diseases, nearly all of which are, in a greater or less degree, preventible by proper precautions. For instance, typhus can be almost certainly averted by systematic attention to cleanliness and ventilation, small-pox by vaccination, and malarious diseases (intermittent fever, &c.) by quinine. It seems apparent, therefore, that it is within the power of Government, either by the action of the War Department or by legislation, to enforce rules that will most materially diminish the waste of efficiency by disease, and the consequent cost of the present war.

*Quinine as a Prophylactic.*—In connection with the subject of malarial disease, above alluded to, attention is respectfully called to the evidence collected in a report prepared for the Commission on the value of quinine as a prophylactic against disorders of that class.

In conformity with the views therein expressed, the Commission has, at a cost of five hundred dollars, since September last, in various urgent cases, issued to regimental surgeons, at their request, two hundred and twenty gallons of the solution of sulphate of quinine in spirits ("quinine bitters") for the use of their men, under their own supervision. This has been done in the case of regiments which, from the peculiarly exposed situation of their camps, or from an inspection of their sick list, seemed in peculiar danger from disease of a malarious type. A reduction of the sick list, and a marked improvement in the health and efficiency of the men, has followed in every instance. The results of this trial induced the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac to request from the Surgeon General authority to supply quinine for use as a preventive, and not merely as a remedy; and this request has been so far complied with as to authorize its use for that purpose in certain specified regiments alone.

The following extract from a report made by Surgeon C. A. Chamberlain, of the 10th Massachusetts Volunteers, shows the effect of the use of quinine in that regiment as a preventive of disease.

After stating that malarious disease prevailed extensively among his men, Dr. Chamberlain proceeds to say:

"Believing that, by the administration of quinine to the men as a prophylactic, we could diminish the amount of the disease in the regiment, I applied to the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, and was kindly furnished with twenty-three gallons of whiskey, containing in each ounce two grains of quinine. Our morning reports at the time show an average of fifty men unfit for duty, besides those in hospital, of which there were usually twenty. The medicine was given to all who were debilitated, or who showed any symptoms of approaching disease, in doses of one to two ounces, once or twice a day. \* \* \*



“Most of them grew stronger and better able to discharge  
 “their duties, their appetites were increased, they seemed  
 “less susceptible to colds and coughs, and those who would  
 “doubtless have suffered an attack of malarial fever, were  
 “saved from it. The testimony of the morning reports of  
 “the sick is equally emphatic, *bringing their number down*  
 “*gradually from fifty or sixty daily to twenty-five.* Had we  
 “been supplied with a sufficient quantity, I have no doubt  
 “that our regiment would have been saved from much of the  
 “sickness which we have since experienced, and it would,  
 “perhaps, also have prevented the necessity of losing one or  
 “two valuable lives.

“Immediately after our supply was exhausted, or very soon  
 “afterwards, *the number of sick increased*, and our reports  
 “show an average of about fifty men returned to quarters.”

#### DISPOSITION OF THE SICK.

Of the average number on the sick list, for the entire number of regiments visited, 59 per cent. are represented as sick in quarters, 24 per cent. in regimental hospital, and 17 per cent. in general hospital.

Returns for the months of September and October, 1861, of six general hospitals at Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, yield the following tabulated results:

	September. 2078	October. 1963
Aggregate of cases treated in hospitals .....	<u>2078</u>	<u>1963</u>
<i>Proportion to every 1,000 treated in hospitals during the month.</i>		
Remaining at previous report.....	445	469
Admitted during the month.....	555	531
	<u>1010</u>	<u>1000</u>
Convalescents sent to Baltimore and Annapolis.....	187	221
Returned to duty.....	294	261
On furlough.....	8	8
Discharged from service.....	8	3
Deserted.....	6	7
Died.....	54	54
Remaining at end of month.....	443	446
	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>
<i>Proportion to 1,000 remaining sick.</i>		
Sick .....	650	571
Convalescent.....	350	429
	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>

Thus it appears that the number of cases treated in the month of October (1963) in the general hospitals above mentioned was somewhat smaller than that of September (2078); that the proportion of patients transferred to the



convalescent hospitals at Annapolis and Baltimore was somewhat greater in October (221 per 1000) than in September (187 per 1000); that a somewhat smaller proportion returned to duty; that the proportions absent on furlough, the proportions who deserted, the rates of mortality, and the proportion of cases remaining in the hospitals, at the end of the respective months, do not appreciably differ. The proportion of convalescents among those remaining in hospital at the end of the month was larger for October (429 per 1000) than for September (350 per 1000.)

It also appears that the average period of continuance of patients in these general hospitals is twenty-four (24) days.

*Prevalent Diseases.*—The following is a statistical classification of the diseases and casualties of forty-seven regiments of volunteers and two of regulars, during periods averaging forty days for each regiment, between July 1st and October 1st, 1861.

The classification adopted is that used in the British army, and for civil registration in England, Australia, and several of the States of the Union.

The imperfect nomenclature which the regimental surgeons are obliged to adopt under the existing regulations, is necessarily followed, the Latin, however, being generally translated.

The data are taken from the consolidated returns of the regimental surgeons to the medical directors of the military departments of the Potomac, and of the West.

The present army classification and nomenclature of diseases originated a century ago, when pathological science was much less advanced than at present; it is comparable with the present system of no other army, and is universally considered by medical statisticians to be very defective. The adoption of a more complete and accurate system of army vital statistics is respectfully advised, analogous to and comparably with the systems in use in other civilized countries. If it is desired that the records of the medical department shall contribute to the advance of the science of preserving human life, the importance of a change by which they may be more readily compared with those of other armies and communities is too obvious to need argument.

*Diseases and Casualties of the Army Statistically Classified.*

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES, ETC.	NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.		
			Army of Potomac.	Army of the West.	Aggregate.
		ALL CASES.....	15,439	12,215	27,654
		SPECIFIED CASES.....	15,439	12,087	27,526
		(Classes.)			
I		ZYMOTIC DISEASES.....	9,437	9,228	18,665
II		CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.....	193	77	270
III		LOCAL DISEASES.....	4,737	2,086	6,823
IV		DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.....	520	427	947
V		VIOLENCE.....	552	269	821
		(Orders.)			
I	1	Miasmatic.....	8,821	9,065	17,886
	2	Enthetic.....	551	132	683
	3	Dietic.....	53	30	83
	4	Parasitic.....	12	1	13
II	1	Diathetic.....	86	25	111
	2	Tubercular.....	107	52	159
III	1	Nervous System.....	1,122	276	1,398
	2	Organs of Circulation.....	51	9	60
	3	Respiratory Organs.....	817	276	1,093
	4	Digestive Organs.....	1,757	1,237	2,994
	5	Urinary Organs.....	107	33	140
	6	Generative Organs.....	97	23	120
	7	Organs of Locomotion.....	149	27	176
	8	Integumentary System.....	637	205	842
IV	1-3	Not occurring in the army.....	.....	.....	.....
	4	Diseases of Nutrition.....	520	427	947
V	1	Accident and }.....	551	268	819
	2	Battle }.....	.....	.....	.....
	3	Homicide.....	.....	.....	.....
	4	Suicide.....	.....	1	1
	5	{ Punishment and }.....	1	.....	1
		{ Execution }.....	.....	.....	.....
		Causes not specified.....	.....	128	128
		(Diseases.)			
		CLASS I.—ZYMOTIC.			
		ORDER 1.—Miasmatic.			
I	1	Small-Pox.....	.....	.....	.....
		Varioloid.....	.....	.....	.....
		Measles.....	224	482	706
		Scarlet fever.....	.....	1	1
		Quinsy.....	183	20	203
		Mumps.....	127	54	181
		Influenza.....	17	.....	17
		Catarrh.....	626	171	797
		Ophthalmia.....	97	140	237
		Typhoid fever.....	156	131	287
		Typhus.....	1	14	15
		Congestive fever.....	.....	18	18
		Continued fever.....	.....	39	39
		Erysipelas.....	37	16	53
		Carbuncle.....	81	4	85
		Dysentery.....	618	527	1,145
		Diarrhœa.....	3,667	3,362	7,029
		Cholera morbus.....	259	23	282
		Cholera Asiatica.....	1	.....	1
		Intermittent fever.....	1,178	2,868	4,046
		Remittent fever.....	639	839	1,478
		Yellow fever.....	.....	.....	.....
		Rheumatism.....	720	163	883
		All other fevers.....	190	193	383
		ORDER 2.—Enthetic.			
I	2	Gonorrhœa.....	308	63	371
		Syphilis.....	159	57	210
		Bubo.....	54	6	60
		Stricture of urethra.....	29	3	32
		Cachexia.....	1	3	4

## DISEASES AND CASUALTIES—Continued.

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES, ETC.	NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.		
			Army of Potomac.	Army of the West.	Aggregate.
		CLASS I.—ZYMOTIC—Continued.			
		ORDER 3.— <i>Dietic</i> .			
I	3	Scurvy.....	4	21	25
		Alcoholism.....	49	9	58
		ORDER 4.— <i>Parasitic</i> .			
I	4	Worms.....	12	1	13
		CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL.			
		ORDER 1.— <i>Diathetic</i> .			
II	1	Gout.....	1		1
		Lumbago.....	73	19	92
		Anasarca.....	10	6	16
		Cancer.....			
		All other diseases of this order.....	2		2
		ORDER 2.— <i>Tubercular</i> .			
II	2	Scrofula.....	14	7	21
		Phthisis, (consumption of lungs).....	51	19	70
		Hæmoptysis.....	21	11	32
		Anæmia.....	21	15	36
		CLASS III.—LOCAL.			
		ORDER 1.— <i>Nervous System</i> .			
III	1	Apoplexy.....	3		3
		Headache.....	281	51	332
		Inflammation of Brain.....	7		7
		Chorea, (St. Vitus' dance).....	3		3
		Epilepsy.....	29	7	36
		Sun-stroke.....	31	7	38
		Spinal irritation.....	9		9
		Mania.....	3		3
		Melancholy.....	7	5	12
		Neuralgia.....	120	73	193
		Paralysis.....	4	1	5
		Nyctalopia.....	1		1
		Hemeralopia.....		1	1
		Retinitis, (inflammation of retina).....	97		97
		Iritis.....	5	1	6
		Amaurosis.....		1	1
		Cataract.....	4		4
		Earache.....	105	6	111
		Otitis, (inflammation of ear).....	67	8	75
		Otorrhœa, (discharge from ear).....	75	1	76
		Deafness.....	10	2	12
		Delirium tremens.....	12	8	20
		Nostalgia, (home sickness).....			
		Toothache.....	185	73	258
		Tetanus.....		2	2
		All other diseases of this order.....	64	29	93
		ORDER 2.— <i>Organs of Circulation</i> .			
III	2	Aneurism.....			
		Angina pectoris.....	2	2	4
		Carditis.....	9		9
		Endocarditis.....	1	1	2
		Pericarditis.....	3		3
		Inflammation of Vein.....		1	1
		Varix.....	19	4	23
		Hæmatocel.....	2		2
		All other diseases of the organs of circulation.....	15	1	16
		ORDER 3.— <i>Respiratory Organs</i> .			
III	3	Asthma.....	20	3	23
		Bronchitis, acute.....	350	140	490
		“ chronic.....	65	14	79
		Laryngitis.....	22	2	24
		Pleurisy.....	112	29	141
		Pneumonia, (inflammation of lungs).....	45	41	86
		Hydrothorax.....			
		Epistaxis, (bleeding at the nose).....	27		27
		All other diseases of respiratory organs.....	176	47	223

## DISEASES AND CASUALTIES—Continued.

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES, ETC.	NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.					
			Army of Potomac.	Army of the West.	Aggregate.			
III	4	CLASS III.—LOCAL—Continued.						
		ORDER 4.—Digestive Organs.						
		Constipation .....	629	505	1,134			
		Colic .....	334	82	416			
		Dyspepsia .....	158	19	177			
		Enteritis, (inflammation of bowels) .....	19	2	21			
		Gastritis, (inflammation of stomach) .....	39	18	57			
		Hæmatemesis .....	8	2	10			
		Inflammation of liver, acute .....	38	218	256			
		“ “ chronic .....	32	42	74			
		Fistula .....	35	.....	35			
		Jaundice .....	33	50	83			
		Peritonitis .....	15	.....	15			
		Splenitis (inflammation of spleen) .....	2	30	32			
		Hernia .....	97	9	106			
		Hæmorrhoids .....	141	33	174			
		Prolapsus ani .....	12	.....	12			
		Ascites .....	1	.....	1			
		Other diseases of digestive organs .....	164	227	391			
		III	5	ORDER 5.—Urinary Organs.				
				Calculus .....	10	.....	10	
				Inflammation of bladder .....	6	1	7	
				Diabetes .....	6	.....	6	
				Enuresis .....	7	5	12	
				Ischuria et Dysuria .....	23	10	33	
				Inflammation of kidney .....	25	8	33	
				Ulcer penis non syphiliticum .....	19	1	20	
Other diseases of the Urinary organs .....	11			8	19			
III	6			ORDER 6.—Generative Organs.				
		Varicocele .....	27	2	29			
		Orchitis .....	63	19	82			
		Sarcocele .....	2	.....	2			
III	7	ORDER 7.—Organs of Locomotion.						
		Hydrarthrus .....	17	2	19			
		Anchylosis .....	13	.....	13			
		Exostosis .....	4	1	5			
III	8	ORDER 8.—Integumentary System.						
		Abscess .....	133	51	184			
		Whitlow, or felon .....	79	6	85			
		Phlegmon .....	63	20	83			
		Ulcer .....	116	50	166			
		Tumor .....	7	.....	7			
		Other diseases of the integumentary system .....	239	78	317			
		IV	4	CLASS IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL.				
				ORDER 1-3.—(Not applicable to the Army.)				
				ORDER 4.—Diseases of Nutrition.				
Atrophy and debility .....	520			427	947			
V	1			CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.				
				Burn, scald .....	20	5	25	
				Concussion of brain .....	5	.....	5	
				Compression “ .....	1	2	3	
				Contusion .....	135	102	237	
				Fracture .....	15	6	21	
				Frost .....	1	1	2	
				Dislocation .....	21	14	35	
				Partial Dislocation .....	51	33	84	
				Lacerated or contused wound .....	84	24	108	
				Wound by puncture .....	23	8	31	
		Gunshot wound .....	50	18	68			
		Poison .....	6	5	11			
		Wound by incision .....	60	36	96			
		Bite of Serpent .....	.....	.....	.....			
Other injuries of this class .....	79	14	93					



## DISEASES AND CASUALTIES—Continued.

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES, ETC.	NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.		
			Army of Potomac.	Army of the West.	Aggregate.
		CLASS V.—VIOLENCE—Continued.			
V	4	<i>Suicide</i> .....	.....	1	1
V	5	<i>Punishment and Execution</i> .....	1	.....	1
		Diseases not specified.....	.....	128	128

The following is a table by which the distribution, according to Statistical Classes, of the diseases and casualties of the same portion of the forces of the United States (1861) may be compared with those of the British army when in the Crimea:

*Number of Diseases and Casualties of each Class and Order to 1,000 cases treated.*

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES, ETC.	Army of Potomac.	Army of the West.	Total.	Army of the Crimea, April 10, 1854 to June 30, 1856.
		ALL SPECIFIED CASES.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
I		Zymotic Diseases.....	611	764	678	698
II		Constitutional Diseases.....	12	6	10	5
III		Local Diseases.....	307	173	248	156
IV		Developmental Diseases.....	34	35	34	1
V		Violence.....	36	22	30	140
		(Orders.)				
I	1	<i>Miasmatic</i> .....	571	750	650	673
	2	<i>Enthetic</i> .....	36	11	25	23
	3	<i>Dietic</i> .....	3	3	3	2
	4	<i>Parasitic</i> .....	1	.....	.....	.....
II	1	<i>Diathetic</i> .....	5	2	4	3
	2	<i>Tubercular</i> .....	7	4	6	2
III	1	<i>Nervous System</i> .....	73	23	51	25
	2	<i>Organs of Circulation</i> .....	3	1	2	2
	3	<i>Respiratory Organs</i> .....	53	23	40	16
	4	<i>Digestive Organs</i> .....	114	102	109	29
	5	<i>Urinary Organs</i> .....	7	3	5	1
	6	<i>Generative Organs</i> .....	6	2	4	.....
	7	<i>Organs of Locomotion</i> .....	10	2	6	1
	8	<i>Integumentary System</i> .....	41	17	31	82
IV	4	<i>Disease of Nutrition</i> .....	34	35	34	1
V	1	<i>Accident and</i> }	36	22	30	{ 15
	2	<i>Battle</i> }				
	3	<i>Homicide</i> .....				
	4	<i>Suicide</i> .....				
	5	{ <i>Punishment and Execution</i> }				
						114
						11

NOTE.—This table may be read thus: Of every 1,000 cases of disease and casualty occurring in the Army of the Potomac, 611 were of the class called Zymotic, (comprising epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases.)  
571 of these Zymotic diseases were of the Miasmatic order.

*Tendencies of Disease.*—Diseases of a malarial type, which till recently have most given occasion for anxiety, are now beginning somewhat to decline. On the other hand, there is a slight but appreciable increase in cases of disease appropriate to the winter months, as severe colds, inflammations, pulmonary affections, and acute rheumatism.

*Typhus.*—To this must unfortunately be added a decided increase of typhus fever. This term is used to indicate not the typhoidal aspect occasionally assumed by other forms of disease, but the formidable and infectious disorder, known, according to the conditions that produce it, as “camp fever,” “ship fever,” “hospital fever,” &c. Its appearance is traceable to the natural disposition of soldiers to shut themselves up in their tents or huts as much and as closely as possible in cold weather. In many camps they have already been allowed to commence a system of suicide by excavating the ground within their lodgings, and throwing up banks of earth against their walls or curtains. This practice, which, as is well known, occasioned a great loss of life in the British army during the Crimean war, should be at once forbidden, and full ventilation of tents at night made compulsory, even at some real or imaginary expense of comfort. The Inspectors of the Commission are unable to act with adequate effect against this danger. An extensive outbreak of typhus would be exceedingly demoralizing as well as destructive, and it would be better that double or triple the usual allowance of blankets and of flannel shirts should be distributed to the men in camps, even if the issue should be left behind or thrown away at the first movement, than they should be indulged in their disposition to burrow or seal themselves in their lodgings.

*Measles and Small-Pox.*—Measles and small-pox are also common, the latter sufficiently so to justify uneasiness. Inspectors of the Commission have been called upon by regimental surgeons almost daily during the last month, for a supply of vaccine virus, the reason assigned by them being that it could not be obtained from the Medical Bureau. The supply at Washington, under the control of the medical authorities, was reported to be entirely exhausted on the 6th inst. There has been no general re-vaccination in the army, and many regiments are now in serious danger from this disease.

The Commission has constantly urged the importance of attention to this subject, and has been partially able to supply the existing deficiency, by purchasing and issuing to regimental surgeons the vaccine matter they stated themselves unable to obtain from the regular sources. Its organization and means are, of course, not sufficient to comprehend the whole army. It has, however, provided for the vaccination of more than twenty thousand men.

Most cases of small-pox that have occurred in the army of the Potomac are attributed by the regimental surgeons to the absence of means for a proper isolation of the sick. Small-pox patients have been conveyed to general hospital in the ambulances and on the cushions used by the sick and wounded generally. What is still more unfortunate, all cases of eruptive disease have hitherto been accommodated in one special hospital. In this hospital, overcrowded\* and most imperfectly provided with bedding and supplies of every description, all cases of eruptive disorders have been placed in close juxtaposition and without adequate precautions against the communication of small-pox to patients under treatment for other diseases.

As a natural consequence of this oversight, several instances have occurred during the last two months in which patients discharged from this hospital cured of measles, &c., have, on rejoining their regiments, been attacked with small-pox, apparently contracted in hospital, and have communicated it to their comrades.

The following cases of small-pox have been reported to the Commission by the surgeons of the respective regiments, as directly traceable to this cause, viz.:

In the 8th regiment Maine volunteers.....	7
8th " New Jersey volunteers.....	3
1st " New York Artillery.....	3
Harris's Light Cavalry.....	2
7th regiment Wisconsin volunteers.....	9
19th Indiana volunteers.....	5

\*The overcrowded condition of the hospital has frequently led to the discharge of patients before their convalescence was established. While this report is preparing, the following statement is made by an Inspector, in connection with his return for a New York regiment:

"I observed the funeral of a soldier in progress, and asking for a history of his case, received the following statement from the colonel and surgeon: A few days previous he had been sent to the hospital for eruptive diseases at 'Kalorama.' He was, when sent, in the early stages of measles. On the evening of the day thereafter, to the surprise of the surgeon, he reappeared in camp, in an exhausted and distressed condition. He said that he had been discharged from the hospital, and, in the evening of a December day, obliged to walk back to his regiment. He was immediately taken to the regimental hospital, and assiduously attended upon. But, notwithstanding all efforts to save his life, he died during the same night from bronchial and laryngeal congestion consequent upon exhaustion and exposure."



And it is to be feared that the list could be enlarged by special inquiry.

The disease has been communicated to the 4th Pennsylvania cavalry by one of these regiments encamped near it. Of the nine men belonged to the Wisconsin regiment, three have died, and the same number of the Indiana regiment. In the 8th regiment of Maine volunteers, the disease communicated to them broke out when they were on the eve of their departure from Annapolis for Port Royal, and the most serious mischief was only prevented by the energetic action of Dr. Cooper, the Medical Director of that expedition, who instantly transferred all who had been in any way exposed to infection from camp to the navy-yard. Nevertheless, the 21st Massachusetts regiment, then engaged in guard duty at the navy-yard, was infected, and up to the 28th November twenty-five cases of variolous disease had occurred among the troops at Annapolis, five of which proved fatal.

The 8th Maine did not entirely escape the disease even after leaving all supposed to be infected behind. The last arrival from Port Royal brings news of the death of one member of that regiment, and of three deaths in the Michigan 8th from varioloid.

#### MILITARY HOSPITALS.

At the close of the October session of the Commission it was understood that Government would at once commence the erection of two cheap temporary model hospitals at Washington, in conformity with plans carefully prepared by a committee of the medical members of the Commission, and approved by it as embodying the latest results of sanitary science. These plans have been formally approved by the Quartermaster General, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, and the ground for the example buildings has been staked out. But their erection is not yet commenced. As the Commission believe that a large amount of hospital space of the character provided for in these plans is urgently demanded from considerations of economy as well as of humanity, it is hoped that there will be no unnecessary delay in their completion and equipment.

*Defects in present Hospital Arrangements.*—The defects and sources of mischief in the general hospitals at and around



Washington and elsewhere, which have been under consideration by the Commission at each of its sessions, and against which it has repeatedly remonstrated, continue without material change. An unfortunate personal difficulty between two medical officers of high position is believed to stand in the way of the measures necessary to bring these establishments up to anything approaching the lowest standard that would be tolerated in any civil hospital.

No fact in sanitary science is better established than this, that old buildings, such as hotels, academies, store-houses, &c., are, from their want of systematic ventilation and other reasons, most unfit to be used as hospitals on any large scale, and that, even in inclement weather, tents or the rudest shanties are preferable. During warm weather, while every door and window is kept open, especially if the buildings are newly occupied, the evil is less felt; but in the winter months, when doors and windows are sure to be kept closely shut, it is almost certain to show itself in the form of hospital fever, erysipelas, and other formidable diseases, and in the general depression and tedious convalescence of those patients who escape them. The Commission has formally applied to the Medical Bureau to take steps to improve the ventilation of these buildings occupied as hospitals near Washington. Some steps have been taken to this end, but they are reported by the Inspectors of the Commission to be inadequate.

Complaint is made by officers of the Medical Bureau that regimental surgeons are tardy in sending their sick to general hospitals—that they are often detained in regimental hospitals till past cure. A large portion of the mortality in general hospitals is thought to be accounted for by this alleged fact.

This tardiness is in many cases to be explained by the feeling of discouragement frequently expressed by regimental surgeons in regard to general hospitals. Men sent to these establishments when laboring under the severest forms of disease are reported to have been frequently turned from their doors, after a long and tedious journey, and sent back to their regiments, because the hospital was full, or because there was some formal defect in their papers. In some instances, such men have spent the night in an ambulance at the hospital door.

*Relations between General and Regimental Hospitals.*—It is manifest that the relations between general and regimental hospitals, and between the surgeons of regiments and those in charge of general hospitals, are in an unsettled condition, which practically leads to great suffering and the loss of many lives.

*Technical Difficulties in the Hospital System.*—Mere technical defects and irregularities in the permits for admission to general hospitals, and also in the requisitions of regimental surgeons for their medicines and other supplies, are the daily cause of much mischief, and of what seems most unnecessary suffering.

This will be best illustrated by a statement of a single case which happens to be reported by the surgeon interested while this portion of the report is in preparation. It is by no means of peculiar or unusual hardship, and is merely a specimen of hundreds in which the Commission has been appealed to for relief.

A volunteer surgeon, whose regiment is encamped at a distance of several miles from the depot of military supplies for his division, and who has in his hospital a large number of sick requiring his constant personal attention, applies to the proper officer for a hospital stove. His requisition is in all respects regular, except that he has forgotten or neglected to get it countersigned by the general commanding his brigade. It is, therefore, handed back to him for correction. He returns to camp. After spending at least another day in pursuit of this officer, he succeeds in finding him, in getting access to him, in gaining his attention, and obtaining his approval and the required signature. He devotes another day to another expedition to headquarters with his wagon for the transportation of the stove, and presents his requisition as amended. The name of the brigadier general appended to it is well known. But the requisition is still defective. The general has hastily subscribed his name in the proper place upon the printed blank, but has neglected to append his title. For this reason, as the surgeon is given to understand, the stove cannot be issued, and he goes back to camp without it to spend two or three days more in pursuit of the general.

Whether the sick men in this regiment sustained serious harm or any harm from the absence of the surgeon, or for want of the stove, it is needless to inquire. They certainly may have suffered fatally. Unless the surgeon considered a stove necessary for them, it is to be presumed he would not have taken all this trouble to procure one. But many analogous cases have been reported to the Commission, in which hospital patients were in imminent danger from like delays, and in which the Commission has supplied from its own stores the few dollars' worth of necessaries required to save them.

There is little room for doubt that many lives have already been lost from mere technical and formal obstacles to their preservation. It is respectfully submitted that some remedy should be applied to this evil. The inevitable consumption of life in military hospitals is sufficiently appalling without any increase from merely artificial difficulties. Official forms and rules are indispensable to the Medical Bureau and Quartermaster's Department, as to every other department of Government, and all who hold official relations with either, are in duty bound, as rapidly as possible, to inform themselves as to the details of its system, and govern themselves accordingly. But if this system be not adapted to the new order of things, and to the wants of the volunteer army—a question on which it is not intended to express an opinion—it seems plain that the system should be changed.

If the regulations to which surgeons must conform before they can obtain medicines for their patients be too complex and elaborate for the comprehension of the average volunteer surgeon, without military education or experience, the interests of half a million volunteer soldiers require that these regulations be revised and simplified, even at some little expense of official precision, and of checks against waste and improvidence.

If, on the other hand, these regulations be in fact fairly within the comprehension of any man of ordinary capacity who will take the trouble to study them attentively and learn his duty, volunteer surgeons should be expected and requested to comply with them, and any failures to do so, in matters involving the health or comfort of their patients, should subject them to military discipline.



A more liberal discretionary power should also be expressly vested in the Medical Bureau, in directors of hospitals, and in certain easily accessible officers of the Quartermaster's Department, to waive strict technical accuracy in requisitions for hospital supplies and in hospital permits, whenever they are satisfied that the interests of the service will suffer no substantial detriment.

#### MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SERVICE OF THE ARMY.

*Regular Service.*—Admission to the medical staff of the regular army is attained through a successful examination by a board of army surgeons appointed by the Surgeon General on the order of the Secretary of War. The candidates approved by the board are entitled to appointment as assistant surgeons in the order of merit as vacancies occur. The test of fitness imposed by these army boards of examination has hitherto been a thorough one, and has secured to the service young men of more than average ability, who only need encouragement to advance in professional attainments, in order to maintain an eminent position as scientific physicians.

Unfortunately this encouragement is not afforded them. The policy of the Government has not heretofore been such as to develop a high degree of professional acquirement. The assistant surgeon, as soon as he is commissioned, has generally been sent to a distant frontier, where he serves for several years as physician at a small military post, the garrison of which rarely consists of more than two companies, often of one of only ninety men. As soon as convenient after five years' service, he has, after a short furlough, been submitted to examination for the grade of surgeon, which terminating in his favor, he is transferred to another frontier post, where he again passes several years without an opportunity of visiting any seat of medical learning, or of renewing by dissection, as he only can at a medical centre, his familiarity with practical anatomy. During most of this time his experience is, in many instances, limited to a small amount yearly of indigenous disease, and a few trifling accidents, and he is thus practically unfitted for professional responsibilities of a wider range.

The administrative duties of his office tend, at the same time, to interfere with the proper exercise of the higher



scientific duties of his profession, and the careful preparation of a detailed monthly report often gets to be considered more creditable than the prevention, by professional foresight, of an epidemic. Thus the army surgeon, by the time he reaches middle life, is in danger of becoming a mere routinest, mindful rather of the forms of business than of scientific advancement.

It is highly creditable to the medical corps of the army that this tendency of the system has been so well resisted by many of its accomplished members, and yet that such is its tendency can hardly be denied.

But the evil is not without remedy. The head of the Medical Bureau should be allowed to permit the surgeon, after stated periods of service, to devote a few months at some centre of medical instruction, where, by association with the learned and the progressive of his profession, his own ambition would be stimulated, and his professional knowledge extended. The British Government thus systematically detaches its medical officers from duty, that they may refresh and extend their knowledge by attendance on lectures, and by resorting to other means of instruction.

Other branches of the service have the stimulus to improvement, and the opportunity of securing it afforded by occasional furloughs, for the purpose of studying the art of war. The country has not forgotten the late military commission to Europe, the experience of which must have greatly enhanced the resources of its present commanding general. Was an army surgeon ever sent to Paris or Vienna to add to his scientific knowledge? The tendency of all work as a matter of routine is to dwarf the intellect and unfit it for broader views. Hence the greater need of occasional special culture. Beside the reasons which humanity urges in favor of securing the highest efficiency to the medical corps, there exists a claim to consideration in the fact, that, unlike the officers of the purely military arm of the service, who have been educated by Government at its Military Academy, the medical officers have educated themselves in an expensive learned profession.

The service could hardly fail to be benefitted also by a reorganization which should create a body of inspectors-general, selected from the army surgeons, with increased

assimilated rank, whose business it should be to inspect the condition of all camps, hospitals, barracks, stores, and supplies, and keep the head of the bureau constantly informed as to the sanitary condition of the army, and the provision for its needs, each season and station frequently having its special wants. This feature of organization, the necessity for which is recognized in every European army, seems necessary to conform the medical department to the purely military departments of the service, thorough inspection being elsewhere the stimulus to efficiency, the remedy for neglect, and the only means by which abuses will be removed. This function of inspectors-general is now blended with that of medical directors, who, being administrative officers on the staff of the commanding general, cannot command time for the thorough and close examination which, as experts, the inspectors-general should be required to make.

More frequent reports, made up of other than purely statistical matter, embracing reflections and investigations, as well as records of cases, would, if called for by authority, and circulated in and out of the army, furnish a valuable stimulus to the laudable ambition of the army surgeon.

*Volunteer Service.*—The surgeons of the volunteer army have been received, with its other officers and its privates, from civil life, either with or without examination. Where examination has been had, it has varied in degree, from the rigid tests imposed on candidates by the State examining board of Vermont, to a careless weighing of merit by which the imperfectly qualified impostor has not been found wanting. In most instances the colonel has nominated the surgeon, who has afterward been confirmed by the Governor of the State, with the approval of an examining board. Practically, the result is better than could have been expected. About seven-eighths (7-8ths) of the surgeons and their assistants,—and this is about the proportion who have undergone examination—seem to the inspectors of the Commission to be fairly qualified for their duties.

There are notable exceptions, however, to this general rule of competence. Two surgeons confessed that, until they were supplied with instrument by the Government, they had never seen an amputating knife. But the average grade of

qualification, founded on both scientific attainment and practical experience is reasonably high.

The fairly qualified surgeon is attached to his regiment, which has reached the column of the army of which it is to form a part. What facilities are his in the administration of his office. Having overcome the difficulties in the way of securing hospital tents for his sick, and recovered from his vexation at being denied one-fourth of the articles of medicine and of furniture, for which he had made requisition in conformity to the supply table, he endeavors, as best he may, to execute his trust. Shall he treat the sick as far as possible in the regimental hospital in camp? He often finds himself cut off from the use of medicines on which he has been accustomed to rely, (they are not mentioned in the supply table for field service,) and cannot obtain others, whose importance is recognized, in sufficient quantities from the medical purveyor. His instruments are often very poor; not at all fit for the uses for which they were designed. He finds the regimental quartermaster and the brigade commissary, both unwilling to be bankers for the Government, when he asks them to purchase, on account of his hospital fund, which from the savings of his rations he has accumulated on paper, such nutritious food as he may require for his sick. Often for that purpose no funds are available.

Shall he not then send all but the lightly sick to general hospital?

It is, perhaps, not the best place for them. The fever patients will not be benefited by the ride of six or eight miles in a jolting ambulance, and they cannot have, in the old public house or the narrow rooms of seminaries, now misnamed hospitals, the free ventilation so essential to them, which the regimental hospital tent affords.

But to secure to them more prompt supplies of appropriate medicine, and more varied and suitable food, and to avoid embarrassing the rapid movement of the regiment liable to be ordered forward, he applies to the medical director for a permit which shall admit his dozen most sick men to the general hospital, in the nearest town. That he sometimes meets delay in securing it, is not strange when regard is had to the amount of accommodation in the general hospitals and



the numbers already there, together with the numbers in camps ill enough to require the surgeon's advice, and to be nursed in the hospital tent. By the statistics gathered by the Commission, it appears that nineteen men in each thousand enlisted are on an average constantly sick in regimental hospitals. Could one quarter of that number find place in the general hospitals on the Potomac, for instance, in addition to their present population?

As the character of the regimental hospital must vary according to the mobility of the regiment, the season, the locality, the prevalent diseases, the proximity to available general hospitals, etc., a large discretionary power should be accorded to the surgeon. The facility of adaptation to varying circumstances is an essential feature of a good hospital system.

The mutual relations of the surgeon and his assistant need to be more clearly defined.

The surgeon is at loss, moreover, as to his relation to the surgeon of brigade, whom he finds on the staff of the brigadier general. The authority of that officer is very imperfectly defined, and he may often claim more than would be readily conceded.

To make the medical and surgical service of the volunteer army as efficient as the country has a right to expect it to be, there seems to be required a uniform and thorough examination of candidates for the post of surgeon and assistant surgeon, by a central board of United States army surgeons, if need be. This is the more important from the practical difficulty encountered in getting rid of incompetent surgeons. It is not an unknown thing for a board summoned to test the qualifications of a medical officer known to be unfit for the discharge of his duties, to report him as qualified, after which only a court martial can separate him from the service, and this he can easily avoid.

More ample provision should be made for the sick, both in camp and town hospitals. The supply table for the former should be revised.

It is submitted, indeed, that the entire medical supply table for post, field, and general hospitals ought to be carefully examined and revised by a competent board; and that,



if it be found in any respect below the requirements of the latest and most enlightened medical science, it should be brought fully up to that standard. Surgeons of both the regular and volunteer forces constantly apply to the Commission for medicines and surgical and other appliances which they deem necessary for their patients, but which they cannot obtain through official channels. Argument is unnecessary that our soldiers, when suffering from wounds received, or disease contracted, in the national service, are entitled to expect from the nation the benefit of everything that the highest medical and surgical science can give them.

*Transportation.*—Transportation for the Medical Department of the army is at present very deficient, irregular, and bad of its kind, and should be improved and systematized. Instances have been credibly reported to the Commission, in which sick and dying men have been packed together in cars and canal boats, and detained for hours on their way, in a manner that (unless it arose from unavoidable accident) can only be characterized as shocking and inhuman. The Government two-wheel ambulance, whether considered as a conveyance for the sick and wounded, or as a transport wagon, is too bad to be continued. In its place several additional four-wheeled ambulances should be given to each regiment, three or four horse-litters of the form shown in Delafield's report on European armies, figures 75 to 78, pending some better invention, and a supply of pack-mules with hampers; as wagons will often be impeded, broken, and rendered impracticable, in the rough roads, gullies, streams, and sloughs, constantly met in our Southern States.

These articles should, of course, be the exclusive property of the Medical Department, and a considerable proportion of the transportation belonging to the medical service of each command should be kept near the stationary or moving depot of the Medical Purveyor of the Corps d'Armée, in order that requisitions, by courier or telegraph, may be immediately filled and despatched. (See Appendix: "*Ambulance.*")

#### VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL, AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

The Commission did not, at first, contemplate furnishing hospital and other supplies to the army on any large scale, but confined itself mainly to the duties of "inquiry and

advice" assigned it by the Secretary of War. It could not refrain, however, with doing violence to the human sympathies of its members, from supplying some few of the more pressing wants which they saw existing in the military hospitals of Washington and elsewhere. The absence of any hospital fund already referred to made these wants remediless, except by the Commission, or more properly, by the generous and patriotic people of the loyal States, whom the Commission represents as their agent and almoner.

The Commission thus found itself in a manner obliged to overstep its strict duty, and was induced to employ a number of experienced young men as hospital dressers; to provide for the washing of the clothing of patients and of the hospital bedding, bandages, and towels; to purchase water-beds for patients who had undergone amputation, and whose surgeons certified that they could not recover without them; to provide nurses possessed of skill for the handling of badly-fractured limbs; to engage the services of barbers to be constantly employed in the hospitals; to supply, from time to time, some small amount of stimulants, and medicines, and surgical appliances to surgeons who were unable to obtain them from the Medical Bureau, either from their own excusable ignorance of official forms, or because the stock at the disposal of the Bureau was exhausted; to provide some means of recreation for men with tedious wounds, and convalescents; to furnish letter paper, envelopes, pens, ink, and postage stamps, or obtain franks, for those wishing to communicate with their friends, or with the friends of more feeble comrades, etc., etc.

The distribution of stores, clothing, bedding, &c., to the hospitals, and occasionally and on special emergencies (as after the engagement at "Ball's Bluff") to soldiers in the field, has now become a recognized function of the Commission. It assumed it with the less reluctance, that some central agency was indispensable to prevent a distressing waste of the supplies which the loyal women of the country were diligently providing for the army. Soldiers of one regiment were found to be over supplied, and throwing away the surplus or bartering it for liquor, while the hospital of

some neighboring regiment was without beds, and its patients without a change of clothing.\*

The Commission has, therefore, for some months past held itself ready to receive and to distribute where most required, among the soldiers of every portion of the army, all supplies, especially of hospital stores, which might be forwarded to its depots by the humane and charitable societies that are working for the army in every northern city, town, and village.

These supplies have been forwarded to it in large quantity.

The Quartermaster General having advertised for blankets from the private stocks of citizens, and having become acquainted with the method of action adopted by the Commission, has also directed that all blankets which shall thus be obtained by his agent shall be placed in the stores of the Commission, for gratuitous distribution, were found to be needed by the sick.

*Depots of the Commission.*—The principal depots of stores for the Commission are in New York, (under charge of the “Woman’s Central Relief Association,” of New York;) at Boston, at Providence, R. I.; at Philadelphia; at Cincinnati; Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio; at Wheeling, Va.; at Louisville; at Chicago; at Cairo; at St. Louis, and at Washington.

*Freight.*—The freight on these supplies has been in many cases necessarily paid by the Commission. This source of expense, however, will be diminished by the liberality of the directors of most of the principal railroad lines, on which supplies consigned to the Commission will hereafter be conveyed at reduced rates.

*Amount of Supplies Distributed.*—The demand for articles of clothing and protection for the sick has naturally increased during the past month, but the means placed by the community at the disposal of the Commission has enabled its Inspectors to keep pace with this increase. Thirty-four thousand four hundred and eighty-one articles of hospital

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\* As this is being written, word is received from the quartermaster of the Second Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, that he has three or four tons of hospital stores which have been presented to the regiment, but of which it has no need, and which he finds it impossible to transport. As the regiment is ordered to move, he desires the Commission to relieve him of them. On the same day an urgent request has been received from several other regiments of the same division for much needed supplies.

Six days after the Commission had, by its agents, conveyed to the wounded at the battle of Ball’s Bluff three wagon loads of comforts, the first box arrived, sent by friends at home for their relief.



clothing were distributed from the Washington depot alone during the month of November, besides a large bulk of unclassified articles.

The supplies thus distributed from the Washington depot have been issued to one hundred and thirty-six hospitals; twenty of which were general, and one hundred and sixteen regimental. The average number of articles supplied to each was a little more than two hundred. About one thousand are now daily distributed from the same depot, and their value in money is not less than five hundred dollars.

At the Cleveland depot sixty-nine thousand articles have been received since its organization; and fifty-one thousand, besides several tons of articles of hospital diet, have been already issued from it to the army of the West, at various points.

From the Wheeling depot, four thousand eight hundred and fourteen articles of bedding and clothing, alone, have been distributed.

Accurate returns have not yet been received from other depots, but there can be little doubt that the value of supplies issued to the army, by agents of the Commission, during November, amounted, at a very moderate estimate, to the sum of forty thousand dollars.

*System of Distribution.*—It is the duty of the Commission to prevent, as far as possible, the sacrifice of human life to matters of form and consideration of accuracy of accounts. Its method of distribution is as thorough and exact as can be maintained consistently with this duty.

This department of its business has so greatly increased of late that it has been difficult to enlarge its clerical organization with corresponding rapidity. Vouchers signed by the surgeon, or his assistant, of every regiment or hospital aided, and countersigned by an Inspector of the Commission, who has ascertained that the articles supplied are actually needed, have been obtained, however, for every dollar's worth issued at all the depots directly controlled by the Commission.

Caution is exercised in the distribution of the gifts of the people, chiefly in the following particulars:

1. That they should be as fairly divided as is practicable—those most needy being most liberally dealt with;



2. That no officer shall be unnecessarily relieved from an existing responsibility to secure for all dependent on him all the supplies which it is his right and duty to demand directly of Government.

*Reserve Stock of Supplies.*—The reserve of stores at the disposal of the Commission is still smaller than it should be. The demand caused by the comparatively trifling engagement at Ball's Bluff exhausted its supply of various articles urgently required, and obliged it to purchase what was still needed in the shops of Washington. Had this battle been followed up by a general advance, or had a general engagement on the Potomac taken place, it is morally certain that many hundred, if not thousand men would have perished for the want of hospital supplies and medicines. Neither Government, nor the Commission, nor the shops of Washington, could have furnished one quarter part of what would have been required, especially if a national victory had thrown the enemy's wounded on the hands of the Government. It is true that Government could have telegraphed to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York for additional supplies; but these could not probably have been obtained in considerable quantity for several days; and if only forty-eight hours elapsed before their receipt, hundreds of wounded men would have died from mere want of medicine, bedding, and bandages.

*Insufficiency of Government Supplies on hand.*—The Commission feels that the duty assigned it by the War Department requires it to protest, as it has already protested, against the grossly inadequate provision for the contingency of a general action, which certainly existed during the summer and autumn, and which it believes still to exist.

To illustrate the extent of this deficiency, it is only necessary to say that the Medical Bureau was obliged to call on the Commission to supply lint and bandages for a few wounded men brought into hospital after one of the petty skirmishes that occurred in September last.

The possibility of an engagement on our own soil at any moment, between two armies of one hundred and fifty or two hundred thousand men each, is so strange a novelty that we naturally fail to appreciate its inevitable consequences, and the

immense amount of human suffering which must follow it. The battle of Bull Run has not taught us the lesson, because most of our wounded were then left on the field. Few of the more serious cases reached our hospitals. We must remember that the experience of foreign armies shows that, after a well-contested battle on this scale, we must count on having, at the very least, from twenty to thirty thousand men crying to us for relief from agony.

*Supplies for Men in the Field.*—The Commission has, by circulars and advertisements, given the widest publicity to the need of hospital supplies at all its depots, specifying particularly the nature, dimensions, form, &c., of the articles especially needed; and, as has already been stated, this appeal has been most generously answered. It has had under consideration the expediency of making a like call on the loyal women of the country for extra clothing for men in the field. After advisement with the Quartermaster General, this has been thought inexpedient, except (to a limited extent) in the West, where delays and irregularities of transportation may retard the supply through the regular channels of Government. Our soldiers are far better paid than those of any European army, and wherever these extra articles of clothing can be obtained through their regimental quartermasters, their value being deducted from the soldier's pay, it is in the highest degree unfavorable to the development of true military habits, that they should seem to be furnished them as a kind of charity.

The Commission, however, is in constant receipt, at Washington and elsewhere, of considerable supplies of this class, which it distributes in cases of emergency. (See Appendix: *Volunteer Army Supplies.*)

#### SPECIAL RELIEF TO VOLUNTEERS IN IRREGULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

The attempt has been made to suddenly stretch a system designed to supply the wants of a well-organized army of less than twenty thousand men under thoroughly trained officers, to make it sufficient for the wants of six hundred thousand civilians rushing together in arms, all at once, with no officers acquainted with the forms of administrative duty for an army, but only leading men from among themselves, and of their own selection, to take the duty of officers in that system.

The population of a large town has been all at once set down here and there, in various parts of the country retired from the grand routes of communication, and from all adequate avenues for the supply of their subsistence. Rogues and traitors have seen their opportunity in this state of things. Fools and indolent men have been swept, in the many eddies of the grand purpose which formed the central current, into places where great wisdom, activity, and energy would have failed to meet every pressing need.

That men everywhere, throughout these wonderful multitudes, are daily suffering from the ignorance, neglect, mistakes, and impositions of their officers and of each other, is a matter of course.

The agents of the Commission, limited in numbers, and sorely limited in means, have yet been able, in ways innumerable, and in many which cannot even be alluded to by a general indication of their character, to administer some measure of assistance and relief in many thousands of these cases.

A brief description of one of the more systematic methods in which the Commission has thus more than justified all the hopes of a beneficent result which were entertained at its organization, is all that can be attempted in this report.

The main purpose had in view, in the agency referred to, has been to lessen the hardships to which the ignorance of the sick volunteers and their officers, of the forms and methods of Government, make them subject while in the city of Washington, and to provide for certain wants of the volunteers when detached from their regiments, for which the Government arrangements had been inadequate, and which the regular Inspectors of the Commission, in their visits to camps and hospitals, could not attend to.

Practically, the chief duty has been—

First. To supply to the sick men of the regiments arriving in Washington such medicines, food, and care as it was impossible for them to receive, in the midst of the confusion, and with the lack of facilities, of their own officers.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care, and assistance to men discharged from the general hospitals, or from their regiments, but who are often delayed for a number of days in the city before they obtain their papers and pay.



Third. To give assistance and information, and secure transportation to men who arrive at the railroad station in small numbers, and want to find and join their regiments. Some of these are men accidentally left behind; some are men who have been detained by order for a few days at hospitals in Philadelphia or Baltimore.

The building near the railroad station, occupied by this agency, is furnished the Commission by Government. From its occupation for this purpose on the 9th of August last, up to the 9th of December instant, four thousand and forty nights' lodgings have been furnished to seventeen hundred and ninety soldiers, mostly laboring more or less under disease, who would, if without this resource, have been obliged to sleep on the floor of the reception house or in places of great exposure. Many have remained in it several days, receiving medical care from a physician of the city employed by the Commission.

This has been done at an aggregate expense of about fifteen hundred dollars.

This agency also aids soldiers passing through the city on their return to their regiments from general hospitals, or passing through the city on sick leave, and in various ways that cannot be classified under any general head, but which have certainly prevented a large amount of sickness and suffering.

This will be best illustrated by extracts from two reports made to the Commission by the Inspector in charge of this agency.

"When the regiments, whose sick men we had charge of, went to camps, they usually carried their sick with them, unless the men seemed too feeble to go; in which case we saw that the men were taken to a general hospital, or else we kept them in charge a few days longer, until the regimental hospital could be put into a comfortable condition.

"Sometimes the sick of a regiment just arrived occupied a separate passenger ear, and remained in the car until the regiment moved; in that case we supplied them with tea and coffee and needed refreshments in the ear.

"Often the surgeon of the regiment had no medicine at hand for the sick, it being locked up in his chest, which could not be reached in the baggage ear. In that case we obtained for him such medicines as immediate needs required.

"When we found men from general or regimental hospitals, waiting to get their discharge papers filled out, and for their pay, we took them in charge, sheltered and fed them, and if they needed help, we rendered it.



"When we found men who were too weak to bear the fatigue of going with their papers, we took charge of the papers ourselves, had them filled up, obtained the signature of the men to blank receipts for money due to them by Government, and thus, by consent of the paymaster, received the money, and paid it over to the men. This privilege could only be granted in cases of absolute necessity.

"When we found men seeking their regiments, we directed them, (from a record of the location of the various regiments kindly furnished us by General Williams;) if they needed money, we gave it to them; if they were weak, obtained an order for an ambulance, or an army wagon, or a railroad pass, by which they were sent to their respective stations.

"In many cases, men who were discharged left their regimental hospitals sadly in need of clean garments, especially shirts, stockings and drawers. In such cases, before they started for home, we made the men clean and comfortable.

"When we found men at the reception buildings in need of medical treatment, but not sick enough to be sent to the general hospital, we called in a physician, unless their own surgeon could be obtained.

"It is not the plan to consider this, in any sense, a *hospital*, but only as a place where the weak can rest and be cared for, and the sick remain awhile until they are otherwise provided for, and also where those returning home, who have no claim upon hospital, or camp, or station-house, may be sheltered, if obliged to remain near the station more than six hours. Therefore, as a general thing, men will remain in the house but one, two, or three days at any given time."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Within the past three weeks, we had a new class, viz.: men belonging to regiments moving from Washington to Annapolis for special service. A number of cases have occurred where the regiments have struck their tents and marched to the railroad station, bringing all their sick with them in ambulances, expecting to take the cars at once; but they were detained there waiting sometimes for twenty-four hours. In such cases we have immediately received the sick into the house; and there they remained until the train which was to take them was ready to start. Some nights we had as many as twenty such from one regiment, who otherwise (though just removed from a regimental hospital) would have been obliged to have slept on the floor of the reception-house, or else in the army wagons and ambulances. Many of these were men who needed all the care we could give them."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Sept. 11th. There were last night in the "Soldiers' Home," as we now call it, twenty-five men resting. Among them were a number of Berdan's Sharpshooters; none of them were sick enough to go to a hospital, but some of them will doubtless be saved from serious illness by two or three days of rest and care. These men represent a large class of soldiers now arriving, who come in companies of fifties or hundreds, not yet organized into regiments, and therefore having no surgeon with them. To such we feel that we can be of especial service."

"Aug. 12, p. m.; at 6½ o'clock, thirty men arrive, belonging to the Wisconsin 5th, in charge of a sergeant. He left them immediately to go to headquarters to get wagons to transport them to their camp. They were men sent on from the hospital at Baltimore. They had no provision for supper. We supplied them, and at 9½ o'clock they were packed into the wagons which had arrived. Had I seen the sergeant beforehand, he would gladly have let them rest for the night in the reception-house. Meantime, at about 8 o'clock, thirteen men and one woman, of the Wisconsin 6th, arrived from Baltimore hospital, without any one in charge of them. They had been merely told to go to Washington, and join their regiment.

We gave them supper, made them comfortable for the night, and after breakfast they were taken to their encampment."

Dr. Grymes, the physieian to the Home, in his report, dated Oetober 10th, says:

"I have professionally treated over 400 soldiers since the opening of the house—some of them very sick. I have sent 36 to the general hospitals from the Home, and others from the depot. I have given medicine to many who were directed to call for advice. I have furnished medicines to various regimental surgeons arriving at the station-house; and, whenever an opportunity has occurred, have conversed and advised with them upon the prevailing diseases of our section of the country; and I have informed them what disposition they could make of their sick."

Copies of reports of the inspector in charge of the agency are submitted herewith.

The general accumulation of troops around Washington has rendered this special establishment for their aid and comfort in the particulars above suggested, and in part stated, almost indispensable. Like services are everywhere rendered them, however, by the inspectors and other agents of the Commission, in every camp and military position, and the Commission hopes (should it be enabled to continue and extend its operation) to mitigate, at least in some degree, the hardships and sufferings to which raw troops under inexperienced officers are inevitably exposed, by establishing or encouraging the establishment of similar ageneies for their aid and comfort at all the great centres of military operation.

It has already done so at Baltimore, Cleveland, and Chieago, through its loeal ageneies in these cities. The Secretary of the Treasury has authorized the use of the Marine Hospitals in the two latter towns for this humane object.

A single illustration is perhaps neecessary, of the manner in which a few energetie and humane men, moving near the track of an army, may often ehance to be able to mitigate the inevitable miseries of war by a moderate expenditure, when not hampered in making it by regard for the strict forms of aetion to which the regular agents of Government are confined. Suen an illustration is found coneisely stated in a report of Robert Collyer, who was employed, at the time of writing it, as an inspektor of the eommission in Missouri:

"Twenty-seven cases of fever had been embarked at Otterville, on Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, in a box ear. The men were laid in their blankets, on the floor. With the sick was laid the body of an officer, in a coffin. A single nurse, without stores, appliances, or money, could do little else than bring water to the



sick. At California Station, in the middle of the same afternoon, they were stopped, to have the road open for the train carrying \* \* \* \* \* For this object they waited until one o'clock a. m. of the following day, when the word came by telegraph that it would not pass during the night. They finally arrived at half-past three, of a raw morning, at Jefferson, where I fortunately came upon them,—two already dead on the floor; the rest faint and cold. I asked the nurse what he was doing for their breakfast. He answered that he had made a requisition, and hoped that he might get food upon it by ten o'clock. I immediately got a supply of tea, coffee, bread, and meat, from the nearest public houses, and brought it to them, for which they were very grateful.

Finally they reached St. Louis at 10 o'clock on Sunday evening, having been thirty-six hours on the road. Three men had died in the transit; a fourth followed in a few hours—4 of 27 !'

A vast amount of extraneous aid, it may be here noticed, has been rendered to the Government in the care of the sick among the troops in Missouri, of only a portion of which any record has been kept. Since August last, two inspectors of the Commission have been engaged in camp inspection at and near St. Louis, and at other points in Missouri, and have distributed to those wanting them a large aggregate of hospital supplies forwarded from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and New York.

The "Western Sanitary Commission," constituted by General Fremont, about three months since, commenced the establishment in St. Louis of hospitals for the reception of such sick as might be transported thither from the columns advancing southwest and west. Latterly, their duties have largely increased, and in co-operation with the medical authorities of the army, they have provided most comfortable quarters for about 2,500 sick, their hospitals being nearly or quite full.

The provisions thus made have been inspected by a Secretary of the Commission, Dr. J. S. Newberry, and the evidence of intelligence, industry, and philanthropy, which they furnished, is in the highest degree gratifying.\*

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ADVISORY DOCUMENTS.

The Commission, having enrolled among its associate members many distinguished members of the medical pro-

\* The arduous gratuitous labors of the St. Louis Commission, in the establishment and care of their hospitals, have necessarily engrossed most of their time and attention; and the inspection of camps, and the prevention of disease among the troops west of the Mississippi, which, in their generous self-devotion, they assumed, has proved to be beyond their power. In these circumstances, it has been determined, by the parent Commission, to extend into Missouri the same thorough system of sanitary measures now being carried out through all the divisions of our army. An associate secretary has therefore been sent to St. Louis, who will, in co-operation with the Western Sanitary Commission, and with the assistance of experienced inspectors, in the shortest time possible, investigate fully the condition and wants of the troops in Missouri, and promptly supply all needed material aid.

fession throughout the loyal States, has thought it fairly within the scope of its duties to invite them to aid in the protection of the army against disease, by the preparation of papers intended to embody in a brief compass the latest results of medical and surgical science, in regard to various special points of great practical importance, as to which some of our volunteer surgeons, necessarily inexperienced in their new field of army medicines, surgery, and hygiene, and without access to libraries, may need information and advice. The duty of compiling these papers has been confided by the Commission to leading members of the profession in our principal cities; and papers on re-vaccination, on the treatment of camp fever, on dysentery, and on certain surgical operations of importance, but not universally understood, are now completed or in progress. These the Commission proposes to print, and to place in the hands of every member of the medical staff. Though many of these gentlemen need no advice or instruction as to their professional duties, there are, doubtless, some whose patients will feel its benefit, and should a single life be thus saved, the labor will be abundantly recompensed.

#### RECORD OF BURIALS.

The Commission has endeavored to obtain information by which the place of burial of the volunteers who have been killed in battle, or who have died in hospitals, may be established. They have also elaborated a system of records for them dying in hospitals, and of indication of their burial place, by which their bodies may be identified; which has received approval, and been ordered to be carried out, blanks and tablets for the purpose being furnished to each regimental quartermaster.

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

The following is a statement of the cash disbursements of the Commission to the 20th November, 1861:

Travelling Expenses of Inspection.....	\$2,079 00
Compensation of Services for Inspection.....	3,480 36
Travelling Expenses of Commissioners.....	1,640 13
Office Expenses, including Services.....	1,036 24
Printing and Stationery.....	1,823 95
Postage.....	397 19
Telegrams.....	90 29
Freight.....	888 66
Soldiers' Home at Washington.....	1,195 00
General Hospital.....	2,392 74
Regimental Hospital.....	572 59
Store House Expenses at Washington.....	660 83

\$16,256 98



## THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

Of the gentlemen named as Commissioners, in your order dated June 9th, 1861, the following accepted the duty assigned them, and have continued active members of the Commission, viz:

The Rev. HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D., New York.  
 Prof. A. D. BACHE, LL. D., Washington.  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., New York.  
 GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. A., Washington.  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. A., "  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A., "  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D., New York.  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D., New York.  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D., Boston.  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D., New York.  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., Cleveland.

The Commission, under your authority, has since added to its number by the addition of the following members, viz:

GEORGE T. STRONG, New York.  
 HORACE BINNEY, Jr., Philadelphia.  
 The Right Rev. THOS. M. CLARK, D. D., Providence, R. I.  
 The Hon. JOSEPH HOLT, Kentucky.  
 R. W. BURNETT, Cincinnati.  
 The Hon. MARK SKINNER, Chicago.  
 FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, New York.

It has also appointed about four hundred "associate members" from every part of the loyal States, including many gentlemen accomplished in sanitary science, whose counsel and assistance has been found of great value. Through these associate members, auxiliary organizations have been established in our principal cities, which have rendered material service to the Commission, in supplying it with funds, in stimulating the supply of hospital material, and in the preparation of medical and surgical papers.

An expression is due of the obligations which the Commission is under, to the Major-General Commanding; the Quartermaster General, and to the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, for valuable advice in its deliberations.

Thanks are due, also, to nearly all the agents of Government, who have at any time had it in their power to aid the work of the Commission. In the various regiments of volunteers which have been inspected, the number of officers from which the Commission has received information is about seven thousand. With a single exception, they have

answered enquiries and received suggestions, in matters of their duty, with entire courtesy and frankness. The fact illustrates a distinguishing characteristic of this Republican Army.

#### IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY HYGIENE.

The experience and observation of the last five months, has only strengthened the original conviction of the Commission, of the immense practical importance to the nation, in a merely economical point of view, of a thorough system of military hygiene, and of increased precautions against the occurrence of disease. Such precautions can hardly be said to form part of our present system. The army medical staff are charged with the cure of diseases; its prevention forms a most subordinate branch of their duties, if, indeed, it be distinctly recognized as belonging to them.

The views of the Commission on this subject are clearly embodied in the following extracts from a Report on Army Medical Statistics presented to the British House of Commons, (printed June, 1861):

"Reports exhibiting the results of extensive observations over a wide field will serve to measure the influences of each known cause on health, and will probably lead to the discovery of new causes, both of impaired and of vigorous life. They will every year contain new contributions to the science of health, in which the whole nation is concerned. The report will be the means of improving the health of the army. They will contribute to diminish the army's sickness, which is attended with expence as well as suffering; for a sick army is the worst extravagance in which a nation can indulge. Through the want of information, which these reports will supply, the exact amount of sickness in the army is not known; but according to past experience, it may be inferred that at least *thirteen thousand* officers and men of the present force are habitually in the hospitals, so that to have an available strength of *one hundred and eighty-seven thousand*, the country has to maintain *two hundred thousand* of all arms. The *thirteen thousand* sick men in the hospitals cost as much as *thirteen thousand* men under arms. Here is a wide margin for economy.

"If the statistical reports help the Secretary of State for war to reduce largely the sickness of the army in peace and in war, they will, it is plain, save thousands of pounds annually in the estimates. At the same time they will effect a still more important saving: for they will save the lives of our soldiers.

"If soldiers die in battle by hundreds, they die of disease in hospitals by thousands.

"The economy of life resulting directly from the information which statistical returns supply, has been already strikingly exemplified in Jamaica, where, by a better choice of stations and sanitary arrangements, the mortality has been reduced from 13 (in 1817-1836) to 6 per cent. per annum (in 1837-1855) on the strength.

"The sickness in the field may be reduced by carefully selecting men; by letting the men, when it is practicable, breathe pure air; by selecting the healthiest sites

available for camps ; by raising the men in their tents from the ground ; by supplying them with pure water ; by better arrangement for cleanliness, clothing, and the supply of food, and by better medical arrangements.

"A certain amount of insalubrity will nevertheless remain.

"As we have shown that the excessive sickness of the army involves a large amount of expense, it is evident that the diminution of that sickness will effect a great saving in peace and an enormous saving in war. For sick men are not only a loss, but an incumbrance to an army. Their numbers are negative quantities. The expense of recruiting and of invaliding soldiers would be reduced by reducing the rates of mortality. Fewer men would be required, and recruits would more readily join a healthy army. The existence of an army in the highest state of efficiency would give additional security to the country without increasing the cost ; the liability to an attack would be lessened ; war would be waged with more chances of success, and would sooner be brought to a close by such an army than by an army suffering from diseases which have hitherto infested our barracks and camps."

The object had in view by the Commission can be effectually accomplished only by the direct action of Government, through officers who can order, where the Commission can only advise. The cause our armies have to defend is alone dearer to the people than are those who have to suffer in its defence. The strength and mobility of the army cannot be sacrificed to the care of its sick and wounded. The sick and wounded should be sacrificed unflinchingly, to every unavoidable military necessity ; but all the more should they be supplied with whatever mitigation of suffering military necessities leave possible. And these should be furnished them, not as if a hard master were driving a bargain with them—as in the commutation of a board contract—but as if the love and pity of mothers, wives, sweethearts, and sisters, were exercised with the far-seeing providence, boldness, ingenuity, tact and industry of true military generalship—Surgeon Generalship.

The duty of guarding against the defeat of our armies by disease, needs to be undertaken as earnestly, as vigilantly, with as liberal a policy, and with as resolute a determination, as any other military duty.

To secure this result, the Commission is convinced that a higher place needs to be accorded the medical staff in the organization of the army. Its relations with all departments and all ranks, as well as with the Government itself, needs to be more intimate, confidential, and influential.

Whatever and whoever stands in the way of this, the Commission wants put out of the way. But if an impression prevails



in any quarter that the members of the Commission, in their devotion to this purpose, have been over-zealous, or sought, individually or collectively, to bring it about by action not absolutely within their assigned duty, or that they have used any indirect or unworthy means therefor, that impression is without the smallest foundation in truth. Whoever seeks to promulgate it, narrows to a personal issue a question of the broadest humanity, and is without provocation or excuse for so doing, in any action of the Commission.

The one point which controls the Commission is just this: a simple desire and resolute determination to secure for the men who have enlisted in this war that care which it is the will and the duty of the nation to give them. That care is their right, and, in the Government or out of it, it must be given them, let who will stand in the way.

The Commission has no fear that its motives will be misconstrued, or its words perverted. In the life-struggle of a nation, soft speaking of real dangers and over considerateness is a crime.

Whether the great tide of the spirit of war which now submerges our land shall be allowed to quietly subside, or whether the struggle in which we are preparing to engage shall continue so long as to establish in us the habits of thought and of life of a military nation, matters little. It matters much that, whatever betide us, we remain true to the central idea of our nation's life; that our army be one with our people, and that we accept whatever the Almighty sets before us as our duty, courageously, patiently, and with mutual helpfulness.

The members of the Commission, deeply grateful for the honored confidence which has constituted it so important an artery of the people's love to the people's army, desire nothing so much as that by a sufficient enlargement and invigoration of the proper departments, they may be relieved of the duties which they have undertaken.

While, however, their beloved Government can, with advantage, continue to accept such services as by the aid of the public liberality they are able to offer, they renew their assurances of the devoted good will with which they remain at its disposal.

By order of the Commission:

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, *General Secretary.*



# APPENDIX.

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## I.

### OFFICERS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

*President*, the Rev. H. W. BELLOWS, D. D.  
*Vice President*, Prof. A. D. BACHE, LL. D.  
*Treasurer*, GEO. T. STRONG.  
*General Secretary*, FRED. LAW OLMSTED.  
*Associate Secretary*, J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.  
" " J. FOSTER JENKINS, M. D.  
" " J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D.  
*Assistant Secretary*, A. J. BLOOR.

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*Actuary*, E. B. ELLIOTT.  
*Accountant*, JOHN BOWNE.

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## II.

### STAFF OF INSPECTION.

#### ATLANTIC.

J. FOSTER JENKINS, M. D., *Associate Secretary*.  
LEWIS H. STEINER, M. D., *Sanitary Inspector*.  
GORDON WINSLOW, D. D., " "  
GEO. L. ANDREW, M. D., " "  
WM. M. CHAMBERLAIN, M. D., " "  
GEORGE A. BLAKE, M. D., " "  
ROBERT WARE, M. D., " "  
HENRY K. OLIVER, M. D., " "

#### CENTRAL.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D. *Associate Secretary*.  
GODFREY AIGNER, M. D., *Sanitary Inspector*.  
C. S. GRISWOLD, M. D., " "  
A. N. READ, M. D., " "  
W. M. PRENTICE, M. D., " "

#### WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D., *Associate Secretary*.  
Prof. HENRY A. WARRINER, M. D., *Sanitary Inspector*.

#### INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN SPECIAL DUTY.

FRED'K N. KNAPP,  
HENRY B. ROGERS,  
ROBERT COLLYER,  
THOS. B. DEWALDEN.  
J. B. CLARK,  
W. S. WOOD.

### III. EXAMPLE.

Owing to the insignificant number of our regular army, and to the fact that a large part of it has been constantly engaged in scouting duties in the wilderness, the aspect of the tidy, well set-up, alert, thoroughly trained soldier, so familiar to all Europeans, is almost unknown to the native American. Of military administration, and especially of sanitary duties, our officers have rarely seen anything, even rarely read or heard anything, before they become responsible for executing them. Information about them is to be obtained from certain paragraphs of military brevity scattered among above sixteen hundred sections of the general *Regulations for the Army*, and from observation of those a little more advanced in experience. Hence the exceeding value of a good example in establishing a standard of attainment. It was precisely the same in the revolutionary war, and it was then, not until the Inspector General took a company of one hundred and twenty men, and by giving it his almost undivided personal attention for some time, personally inspecting each man twice a day, and was thus able to set before the Continental officers an example of real excellence, that the army began to assume an efficient character for offensive operations. "In a fortnight," writes Steuben, "my company knew perfectly how to bear arms, *had a military air*," &c. "I had my company of guards exactly as I wished them to be. They were well-dressed, their arms clean and in good order, and their general appearance quite respectable." \* \* "It afforded a new and agreeable sight for the young officers and soldiers." "Having gained my point, I dispersed my apostles, the inspectors, and my doctrine was eagerly embraced." This was in December, 1777—a year and-a-half after the war opened.

In the *Regulations* for the Continental army, the police, sanitary, and administrative duties of officers are far more thoroughly defined than in the present *Regulations*, and, if they were regarded, the Continental army toward the close of the war, at least, must have had a much more creditable appearance than our present army, and been less in danger of camp epidemics. See *Kapp's Steuben*.

### IV. SOME NOTES OF AN INSPECTION OF A PART OF THE FORCES ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

As soon as practicable after the battle of Bull Run, a series of seventy-five enquiries was prepared, intended to elicit information as to the condition of the troops before, during, and after the engagement, and as to the defects in the mode of providing for the necessities of the army which had been manifested in the series of movements which were connected with it. These questions were placed in the hands of the seven inspectors of the Commission, who were then employed in visiting the regiments which had been engaged, for the purpose of ascertaining and administering to their wants, and they were instructed to obtain answers to them, which would represent as nearly as possible the knowledge and judgment of the most intelligent officers and surgeons of these regiments with whom they were able to confer.

The returns received comprise about two thousand items of evidence with reference to the history of the battle, and have a certain value otherwise than from a medical or sanitary point of view. The largest part of them were collected by physicians and examiners of life insurance companies, accustomed to an exact and searching method of inquiry.

Portions of each of the twelve brigades under the command of Major General McDowell, at the time of the general advance of July 16, were visited by the inspectors.

The entire number of bodies of troops visited was thirty.

Of the twelve brigades comprising the Army of the Potomac, seven only crossed the stream known as Bull Run, on the occasion of the engagement of Sunday, July the 21st, and took any active part in the main action with the enemy.

Certain regiments that crossed the stream and took important part in the action of the 21st, (as, for instance, the 69th and the 71st New York State Militia,) were removed from Washington to be mustered out of service so soon after the battle, that no reports were obtained from them.

Concerning several of the regiments visited, replies were obtained to the entire series of seventy-five questions proposed; concerning others, replies were obtained to but a portion of the series—the defect being due in some instances to neglect on the part of inspectors, in others, to inability on the part of the regimental officers consulted to give the information desired.

*Skirmish of the 18th.*—Of twenty-nine bodies of soldiers visited, four were actively engaged in the “demonstration” of the 18th of July, (Thursday,) at Blackburn’s Ford, (across the Bull Run,) three others were engaged, but not actively, and twenty-two were not engaged.\*

*Engagement of the 21st.*—Of the same twenty-nine bodies of troops, twenty were actively engaged in the battle of the 21st of July, (Sunday,) seven were engaged, but not actively, and two were not engaged.

*Camp Guard.*—The average number left as camp guard at the time of the general advance, previous to the engagements of the 18th and 21st, from each of nineteen regiments reporting on this point, was sixty-eight, (more exactly, 68.2.) From ten of the twenty-nine regiments visited, no report was made as to the number so left. The smallest number so left behind by any regiment was thirteen; the largest number so left, one hundred and fifty.

*Strength of Regiments.*—The average number of troops that marched for the battle field at the time of the general advance, from each of twenty regiments reporting on this point, was (as stated by their officers) eight hundred and two; † nine of the twenty-nine bodies of troops visited not reporting. The smallest number so marching was six hundred, the largest number nine hundred and fifty-one.

*Last Meal.*—The last meal before the battle of the 21st, of sixteen of the twenty-nine regiments, was on the evening of the day before; that is, on the evening of the 20th. Six regiments had a regular breakfast early (that is, before 2½ o’clock) on the morning of the day of the battle; two regiments breakfasted at six, and the battalion of United States infantry is reported to have enjoyed a regular meal in the woods about eleven A. M. The time of the last regular meal of three regiments is not reported, but there is reason for stating it to have been about 6 A. M.

*First Movement on the 21st.*—The troops, except those in the reserve, were aroused from sleep between the hours of one and two o’clock on the morning of the battle of July the 21st, the march being ordered to commence with some at two, with others at half-past two. ‡

*The Commissariat.*—The troops had been supplied at about 3 p. m., on the 16th of July, with three days’ rations in their haversacks, “which should have lasted them to the afternoon of the 19th.” [See report of Captain Clark, Commissary of Subsistence.] And again, in a circular from headquarters, dated at Centreville, July 20th, 1861, an equal distribution of the subsistence stores on hand was required to be immediately made to the different companies of each division. In accordance with the last-mentioned order, “160,000 complete rations were received by the army at and in the vicinity of Centreville—sufficient for its subsistence five days.” (Hence there appeared to have been a short interval unprovided for.)

According to the reports made to the inspectors, few companies complied fully with these orders; twenty-six of the twenty-nine regiments visited took at least a partial supply, say from one to three days’ rations, under the former order; two regiments, it is said, taking “no supply,” depending for food upon “forage.” An insufficient supply in one case was accounted for by the statements that “they had no expectation of being called to march;” (that is, therefore, did not obey the order.) In several instances it is stated that the supply of three days’ rations taken by the troops was “exhausted before the close of the second day;” that is, the rations were wasted. These confessions of neglect or improvidence on the part of the volunteers are confirmed by the report of Commissary Clark, in which it is stated that after the distribution had been properly made to the several divisions he (Captain Clarke) knew “of several instances in which subsistence stores remained in possession of division and brigade commissaries, and of others in which provisions were left on the ground of the encampments on the morning of the 21st of July.”

*Distance Marched before the Battle.*—The distance marched to the field of battle on the morning of the 21st by those who became actively engaged, varied from four

\* The thirtieth body, previously referred to, was Blenker’s Brigade, which also was not engaged, and which is for the present disregarded, because the returns from it are more imperfect than the average.

† This is believed to be somewhat over estimated.

‡ Those regiments which breakfasted at six were of the reserve.



to twelve miles; of those in the vicinity of the field, but not actively engaged, the distance generally was from two to four miles, (Richardson's brigade remaining in the position it held on the 20th, menacing the enemy at Blackburn's Ford.)

*Double-Quick.*—The portion of this march to the battle-field which was at double-quick, was, in the case of fifteen of the regiments, from one and one half to three miles—generally from two and a half to three miles; in the case of thirteen of the regiments there was no portion of the march at double-quick. During the battle a few of the companies, and but a few, moved at double-quick for one or two miles.

It seemed to be generally considered by the volunteers that their strength was unnecessarily and injudiciously wasted by the extent of the double-quick advance. To a certain extent this appears to be true, yet the result could hardly have been affected by it if the men had been in tolerable condition.

*Degree of Vigor at Commencement of Battle.*—As to the physical condition of the troops on reaching the field of battle, it is reported that eight of the regiments visited were in "fair," "excellent," "good," "best" condition;

That in eight others "the men were somewhat exhausted," "partially exhausted," "evidently suffering."

That in twelve of the regiments visited, the troops were said to be "much exhausted," "generally fatigued," "many considerably exhausted;" in six of the regiments from one to twenty were "given out," "given completely out," &c., one or two instances of "sun stroke" being specified.

In eight regiments none "gave out" before the battle; in from nine to eleven regiments some gave out before the battle; and concerning the remaining regiments there is no report.

(There was an evident disposition to regard the exhausted physical condition of the men as a chief cause of the defeat.)

*Causes of Exhaustion before the battle.*—As to the causes assigned for the exhaustion, it appears that of the regiments visited, it was stated that three had not suffered at all from fatigue or heat, or want of food or drink or sleep; in seventeen of the regiments "fatigue" was assigned as a cause of exhaustion; in eleven the march at "double-quick" was specified of peculiarly fatiguing; in eight of the seventeen the exhaustion is attributed more to the double-quick than to want of food and drink; in sixteen of the regiments want of food was assigned as a cause of exhaustion; in eleven want of drink was assigned as a cause; and in a few cases, the exhaustion was attributed, in part at least, to want of sleep, and to a bivouac of three or four nights in the open air, with insufficient clothing, as was the case with the Fire Zouaves, who left their blankets and rubber cloths in camp.

So much as to the condition and movement of the troops before the battle.

*Time in the Battle.*—The time during which the troops taking part in the battle of the 21st were actively engaged (pushing forward the enemy, or being temporarily on retreat, after first coming under fire,) appears to have varied from twenty-five minutes to six hours, being in most cases from five to six hours.

To the regiments most actively engaged the time was thought to be much shorter than actually elapsed, the five or six hours in which they were engaged seeming to the men, as they stated, scarcely one hour. The time during which men stood under fire without being actively engaged themselves is, on the other hand, found to be over-estimated by them.

*Degree of Vigor during the Battle.*—It is claimed that in eight of the twenty-nine regiments visited, there were no symptoms of exhaustion manifest during the battle; that in eight there was evident suffering and fatigue evinced by men lagging behind, and by companies breaking up, especially after double-quick, few or none giving completely out; that in ten regiments, many (in some instances stated as high as one-fourth or one-third of the number constituting the regiments,) gave completely out, "some few dropping down in convulsions," or suffering from "sun stroke." The evidences of exhaustion in other regiments are not assigned.

*Cases of Exhaustion during the Battle.*—In explanation of the alleged excessive exhaustion of the men toward the close of the battle, the officers consulted in twenty-six of the twenty-nine regiments referred to, attributed it to fatigue and heat, twenty-one to lack of food and drink. All the reports which assigned insufficiency of food and drink as a cause, also assigned excessive fatigue. Six of them assigned fatigue, and especially the march at double-quick, as the main cause of the exhaustion which was manifest during and just after the battle.



*Cause of Retreat.*—The proximate cause of the retreat is variously assigned—to the attack of fresh reserves of the enemy upon our right—to the rapid and apparently wild return of the caissons for ammunition—to the appearance of a retreat of our cavalry, who were thought by some to be riding over our own infantry, the rear guard, at the same time, mistaking them for secession cavalry, &c. Certain more organic causes of the defeat are frequently stated.

By some the defeat is attributed to the condition of the men, exhausted by excessive fatigue, and by want of sufficient food, drink, and sleep; by others, to a "feeling," on the approach of the fresh reserves of the enemy, "of the total inadequacy of a small force to compete with superior numbers supported by masked batteries." By others the defeat is attributed to "causes involving the whole command;" "not due to previous exposure and fatigue, but to the bad conduct of the battle on the part of the leaders." By others (regulars) defeat is attributed to "inefficiency of volunteers;" by one (German) to "bad strategy and want of discipline."

Through all the regiments there appears to have prevailed the false idea of the vast superiority in point of numbers possessed by the enemy, together with a lack of confidence in the military skill of the leaders of the army of the Union, as compared with that of the leaders on the part of the rebels; also combined to a certain extent with a dread of meeting an invisible foe.

*Officers Leaving their Commands.*—In thirteen of the regiments the officers are said not to have been much separated from their commands, except in the case of wounded officers; in eleven regiments it appears that the officers were, to a considerable extent, separated from their commands, the regiments being "much scattered," "badly disorganized," "broken into fragments," the men being, in certain cases, "left entirely to themselves." Concerning five of the regiments visited, no information was given on this point. (The above report is that of the officers themselves in most cases.)

*Throwing away of Arms and Equipments.*—Of the twenty-nine bodies visited, twenty-two threw away or laid aside blankets and haversacks before engaging in battle. Some placed them in a pile under guard, others threw them aside carelessly, either before arriving on the field, while approaching it at double-quick, or immediately before engaging with the enemy. Three regiments threw off their blankets during the battle, and the march at double-quick on the battle field; one regiment threw aside blankets only, retaining haversacks; and three only of the twenty-nine bodies of troops visited retained possession of their blankets and haversacks during the engagement.

During the retreat, it appears from the reports of the inspectors that the men of ten regiments did not throw away any of their arms or accoutrements; that the men of nine regiments did throw away portions, no report being made relative to the course of the remaining ten regiments. There is no reason to believe that these latter averaged better in discipline than the former, and it is probable that there was some loss of arms in, at least, half of them. Colonel Keyes, of 1st brigade, 1st division, reports that his brigade bivouaced on the night of the 23d near Fort Corcoran, "every man with his firelock."

The number of muskets thrown away during the retreat was stated, in some cases, to be about fifty; generally the number is not mentioned. [A considerable portion of one regiment are reported to have exchanged their smooth-bore muskets for those of a superior kind left behind by regiments preceding.]

The blankets and haversacks of many of the regiments, especially of those actively engaged in the conflict of the 21st, were lost, being left on the field of battle wherever they were deposited before the engagement. A small number of the regiments, and a few individuals and companies in each regiment, possessed themselves again of their blankets and haversacks, it is stated, before leaving the field.

Overcoats do not appear to have been so generally lost, as many of the regiments left their camps at the time of the general advance, (July 16,) equipped in "light marching order," that is, with blankets, haversacks, and canteens, leaving overcoats in their camps. Certain of the regiments, as, for instance, the Connecticut regiments and the 2d Maine regiment in the brigade under the efficient command of Col. Keyes, recovered much property of other regiments, including arms and other equipments thrown aside in flight, and also including the abandoned tents and camp equipage of two regiments, (of another brigade,) this latter property being secured by his troops during the continued drenching rain of the 22d. Companies in certain other regiments (as in the Massachusetts 1st)

halted on retreat, and picked up blankets, camp kettles, &c., which they found thrown aside on the road. (The loss of blankets at this time led in certain regiments to a good deal of subsequent sickness and increased demoralization.)

*Bad Arms.*—One regiment complained of the bad condition of their smooth-bore muskets, (the altered muskets of 1840,) nipples breaking, cartridges too small, so as to drop in, or too large, so as to require to be forced in by pressing the ramrod against trees, &c., &c. This complaint does not seem to have been general, with certain regiments the smooth bores working efficiently.

*Distance Travelled.*—The distance travelled by the several regiments on the night of the retreat varied from twenty to thirty-five miles, generally it was about twenty-seven. The average distance of the day's advance and retreat, including movements on the field, was about forty-four miles.

*Physical condition after the Retreat.*—The next morning, (the 22d,) according to the almost universal report, there were few, if any, able men in the infantry. Blistered feet, rheumatic pains, aching limbs, diarrhœa, and nervous debility being prevalent.

The physical condition of three of twenty-nine bodies of troops when visited a few days later, was reported "unaltered by exposure and retreat," "not exhausted;" the men of four regiments were reported to be not much exhausted; those of fifteen were reported to be much exhausted, "physically prostrated," "prostrated," "exhausted and worn out," "greatly affected by exposure and retreat," "terribly fatigued, could not get rested," &c. The physical condition of seven of the regiments was not stated.

*Causes of Exhaustion.*—The physical exhaustion of the troops was attributed to excessive fatigue, to heat, and to want of food and drink.

*Extent and Degree of Demoralization after the Battle.*—At the time of making the inquiries, from the 25th to the 31st of July, inclusive, it appeared that of the twenty-eight regiments visited, eight were considered by their officers not to be essentially demoralized;\* and was described as "not discouraged," another "full of courage and ready for an engagement;" (1st Mass.) "morale good," (2d R. I.;) "in good spirits," (2d N. H.)—eight were reported to be not much demoralized, "some few dispirited, but generally cheerful and animated," "somewhat depressed and disgusted with needless (?) exposure, otherwise not much demoralized," (there is reason to think that the exposure to rain, complained of as needless, was far from needless, was in fact, essential to the protection of property;) "not much disheartened," "will re-enlist," &c.; twelve were reported "as much demoralized," "much disheartened and discouraged," "morally prostrated by the rout," "low spirits," "one half of the regiment demoralized, majority wish to go home," "wish to be disbanded and return to fight under other leaders," "completely demoralized, discontented, unwilling to serve, because, as they allege, ill-fed and unpaid."

The degree of demoralization does not appear to be coincident with the degree of physical and nervous exhaustion.

As a rule, the best officered, the best disciplined, and the best fed regiments, were obviously the least demoralized.

*Causes of Demoralization.*—The demoralization was attributed, by those making answer to the inquiry, generally, in each case, to several causes combined. Among these, in fifteen cases physical and nervous prostration was mentioned; in seven cases, discouragement on account of the result of the battle, accompanied sometimes with a feeling of inadequacy to compete with superior numbers; in two cases the great mortality attendant upon the late engagements was assigned among the causes; in three cases, dissatisfaction with armament—(smooth-bore muskets;) in three, dissatisfaction with and lack of confidence in officers; in five, dissatisfaction with food; in one case, dissatisfaction on account of failure to receive from Government pay promptly for services; in two, dissatisfaction in consequence of supposed needless exposure to storm.

*General Summary.*—From these investigations, combined with information derived from official reports of the generals commanding; from published statements in rebel as well as loyal journals; from previous investigations of the inspectors of the Sanitary Commission as to the condition of the troops, and from other sources, it is manifest that our army, previous to and at the time of the engagement, was suffering from want of sufficient, regularly-provided, and suitable food, from thirst, from want (in certain cases) of refreshing sleep, and from the

\* Subsequent reports were sometimes less favorable.



exhausting effects of a long, hot, and rapid march, the more exhausting because of the diminution of vital force of the troops due to the causes above enumerated. They entered the field of battle with no pretence of any but the most elementary and imperfect military organization, and, in respect of discipline, little better than a mob, which does not know its leaders. The majority of the officers had, three months before, known nothing more of their duties than the privates whom they should have been able to lead, instruct, and protect. Nor had they, in many cases, in the meantime, been gaining materially, for they had been generally permitted, and many had been disposed, to spend much time away from their men, in indolence or frivolous amusement, or dissipation.

It appears that many were much exhausted on reaching the field of battle, but that, supported by the excitement of the occasion, they rallied fairly, and gradually drove the opposing forces from Sudley Spring to the low ford, and from the lower ford to beyond the Stone bridge and the Warrenton road; that, at this time, (half-past three,) when congratulated by superior officers, and congratulating themselves on having achieved a victory, and when having repulsed reinforcements sent from the extreme right of the enemy to support their retreating columns, they were just relaxing their severely-tried energies, there appeared in the distance "the residue" of the forces of General Johnston, (see McDowell's report, Dr. Nott's letter to a Mobile paper, and correspondence of Charleston Mercury,) a single brigade (Elsey's) coming from the Manassas Gap Junction railroad, marching at double-quick to engage our troops at the right who had been hotly fighting unrelieved by reserves during the day. This brigade, joined with the two regiments of Kershaw and Cash, "turned the tide of battle." (See in Richmond Dispatch, July 29, statement "of a distinguished officer who bore a conspicuous part on the field of battle on the 21st of July.")

Our troops, ignorant of the fact that they had been contending against and repulsing the combined forces of Beauregard and Johnston; and believing that this inconsiderable remnant of Johnston's forces which they now saw approaching to be his entire column; and feeling their inability, without rest or refreshment, to engage an additional force of fresh troops nearly equal in number to those with whom they had been contending during the day,—commenced a retreat, not very orderly, but quite as much so, at first, as had been the advance in which they had driven back the forces of the enemy. Their (nominal) leaders, who too often had followed them in battle, were, in many cases, not behind them on retreat.

As they retired, however, a sense of disintegration began to pervade their ranks; each ceased to rely on his comrade for support, and this tendency was augmented by the upturned wagons blocking the road, which served to completely break the imperfect columns.

The reports of the inspectors give no evidence that the panic infected the extreme left, or the reserves, to any sensible degree. It was uncontrollable only with a part of the troops on the extreme right, among whom it originated. Many at the centre and the left were surprised when the order came to retreat, and for a time considered it as merely an order to change position in view of a still further general advance. Some officers state that they "warmly remonstrated"—"too warmly, perhaps"—when they received the order to retire.\*

The returns of the inspectors are not conclusive on this point; but from the result of subsequent specific inquiries by Mr. Elliott and the Secretary, it can be stated with confidence that indications of terror or great fear were seen in but a comparatively very small part of the retreating force. Most trudged along, blindly following (as men do in any mob) those before them, but with reluctance, and earnest and constant expressions of dissatisfaction and indignation, while no inconsiderable

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\*The history of the 2d Rhode Island Volunteers may be cited as an example of those to whom Bull Run was no disgrace. They were near the extreme *right* in the engagement. Their previous march had been as fatiguing as that of others; they were as badly off for food as others, having nothing but a few crackers to eat for more than thirty-six hours. They were the first to engage; were severely engaged, and as long as, or longer than, any others; they were badly cut up, losing their colonel and other officers, and sixteen per cent. of the ranks in killed. They stood firm under fire while the panic-stricken crowd swept by and through them, and until they received the order to retreat. They then wheeled steadily into column, and marched in good order, until the road was obstructed by overturned wagons. Here they were badly broken up by a cannonade, scattered and disorganized, but afterwards, having mainly collected at Centreville, reformed and marched the same night, under such of their officers as remained alive, to and through Washington to a position several miles to the northward—a post of danger—where they at once resumed regular camp duties. When visited by the inspector, a few days afterwards, he was told and was led to believe that the men had only wanted a day's rest to be ready and willing to advance again upon the enemy. He reported the regiment not demoralized.



number retained, through all the length of the privation and discomfort of their dreary return to Washington, astonishing cheerfulness and good humor, and were often heard joking at their own misfortunes, and ridiculing the inefficiency of their officers. The Germans of the reserve were frequently singing. None of the reserves were in the slightest degree affected by the panic, and there general expression with reference to the retreat was one of wonder and curiosity.

The reserve, nevertheless, suffered much from fatigue, and subsequently exhibited most decided demoralization

## V.

## AMBULANCE.

It is well known that the means of transportation which regiments of different States have brought to the seat of war with them, provided by the care and forethought, and paid for by the pecuniary liberality of the State or district supplying these troops, have, on their arrival at Washington, been withdrawn from them and turned into the common stock. To the corps d'armce, whose position, in the front of operations, renders them liable to the various contingencies of war, a very limited supply of means of transportation for the sick and wounded has been provided, far less in many cases than their original property. Since this report was prepared, the first important skirmish in the army of the Potomac for some months has occurred. In all previous engagements it is notorious that the ambulance arrangements have proved, to the last degree, inadequate, and imperfect. Many lives were lost at Ball's Bluff, for instance, in consequence of this, and more would have been, had not a volunteer surgeon, without authority, compelled men to assist him in his duties, by drawing his revolver and shooting at the first who refused to obey his orders. Since then the Medical Director has issued orders, excellent in spirit, for the training of a small number of ambulance attendants in each regiment, and it was hoped that we might be spared renewed occasion of shame for neglect to care for wounded men. In the affair at Drainsville, December 20th, Ord's brigade took to the field its whole ambulance provision, consisting of nine covered spring carts, in which but eighteen men could well be carried at once. The engagement took place twelve miles from where a "division hospital"—an anomaly in the service, unprovided for in the Regulations or Supply Tables—had been permitted to be established. Some sixty suffering men were got back to this hospital. But, although we had in this case driven the enemy in confusion from the field, for lack of ambulances, we were obliged to leave all but three of his wounded, (thought to be larger in number than our own,) on the ground where they fell, at the beginning of a December night.

## VI.

## VOLUNTEER ARMY SUPPLIES.

It is hardly just to let this report go forth to the public without a more distinct reference to the deep and earnest, resolute and abiding spirit of patriotism in the women of the country of which the Commission daily receives more tangible evidence than can be conveyed in words. From a backwoods neighborhood, for instance, comes a box containing contributions of bed clothing and wearing apparel from sixty women and children, the invoice running thus: "*One pair of stockings from the widow Barber; one quilt, two bottles current wine, one cheese, Mrs. Barber; two pillow cases and one pair stockings, Jane Barber; one pair stockings and one handkerchief, Lucy Barber; one pair mittens and Robinson Crusoe, Jedediah Barber;*" and then follows the list of contributions of another family. A few devout words only are commonly added to such a list, but they imply that the donors are ready to give all they possess if it shall be needed to maintain the inheritance of our fathers. Blankets worn in the Revolution, and others taken in the last war with England, heir-loom linen, with great-grandmother's hand-marks, and many family treasures, are sent as free-will offerings, with simple prayers that they may contribute to the comfort of some defender of liberty. To the same end, the first ladies of the land, if any are entitled to that appellation, have, without cessation, during all the hot summer, been engaged daily in dry, hard, plodding work, sorting, marking, packing goods, and carrying on extended and tedious accounts and correspondence, with the precision, accuracy, and regularity of

trained merchants. In all there is little character of romantic enthusiasm, but much, and, as the months pass, more and more, of deep-seated, abiding, self-sacrificing resolution. It seems as if the women were just now beginning to feel how much they love their country; and the enquiry "How can we best do something for the army?" is coming from every quarter, from the border slave States as well as the free. That it is important that this desire should be gratified, and with judicious economy directed where it will most truly aid, however slightly, the strength and comfort of our soldiers, there can be no question. Although our volunteers are, as compared with the soldiers of other armies, generously paid, few large armies of modern times have been as little influenced by mercenary motives. The gifts which, especially when sick and wounded, the men have sent to them from the women at home, can but have an ennobling influence upon them; and the aid given in this manner to the army, must create in all those from whom it proceeds, an interest in and sympathy with the army, and with its objects, which will prepare them constantly for greater sacrifices and more resolute devotion to the Government, should it be needed. How well Washington understood this, the following letter, written by his own hand at a time when he must have been overloaded with business of the grandest importance, gives evidence. It has never before been published:

*Copy of a Letter from Gen. Washington to Mrs. Bache, (Daughter of Franklin.)*

HEAD Q'RS IN BERGEN, N. J., 14th of July, 1780.

MADAM—I have received with much pleasure—but not till last night—your favor of the 4th, specifying the amount of the subscriptions already collected for the use of the American soldiery.

This fresh mark of the patriotism of the Ladies entitles them to the highest applause of their country. It is impossible for the army not to feel a superior gratitude on such an instance of goodness. If I am happy in having the concurrence of the Ladies, I would propose the purchase of coarse linen, to be made into shirts, with the whole amount of their subscription. A shirt extraordinary to the soldier will be of more service to him than any other thing that could be procured him; while it is not intended to, nor shall, exclude him from the usual supply which he draws from the public.

This appears to me to be the best mode for its application, provided it is approved of by the ladies. I am happy to find you have been good enough to give us a claim on your endeavors to complete the execution of the design. An example so laudable will certainly be nurtured, and must be productive of a favorable issue in the bosoms of the fair, in the sister States.

Let me congratulate our benefactors on the arrival of the French fleet off the harbor of Newport on the afternoon of the 10th. It is this moment announced, but without any particulars, as an interchange of signals had only taken place.

I pray the Ladies of your family to receive, with my compliments, my liveliest thanks for the interest they take in my favor.

With the most perfect respect and esteem, I have the honor to be, madam,

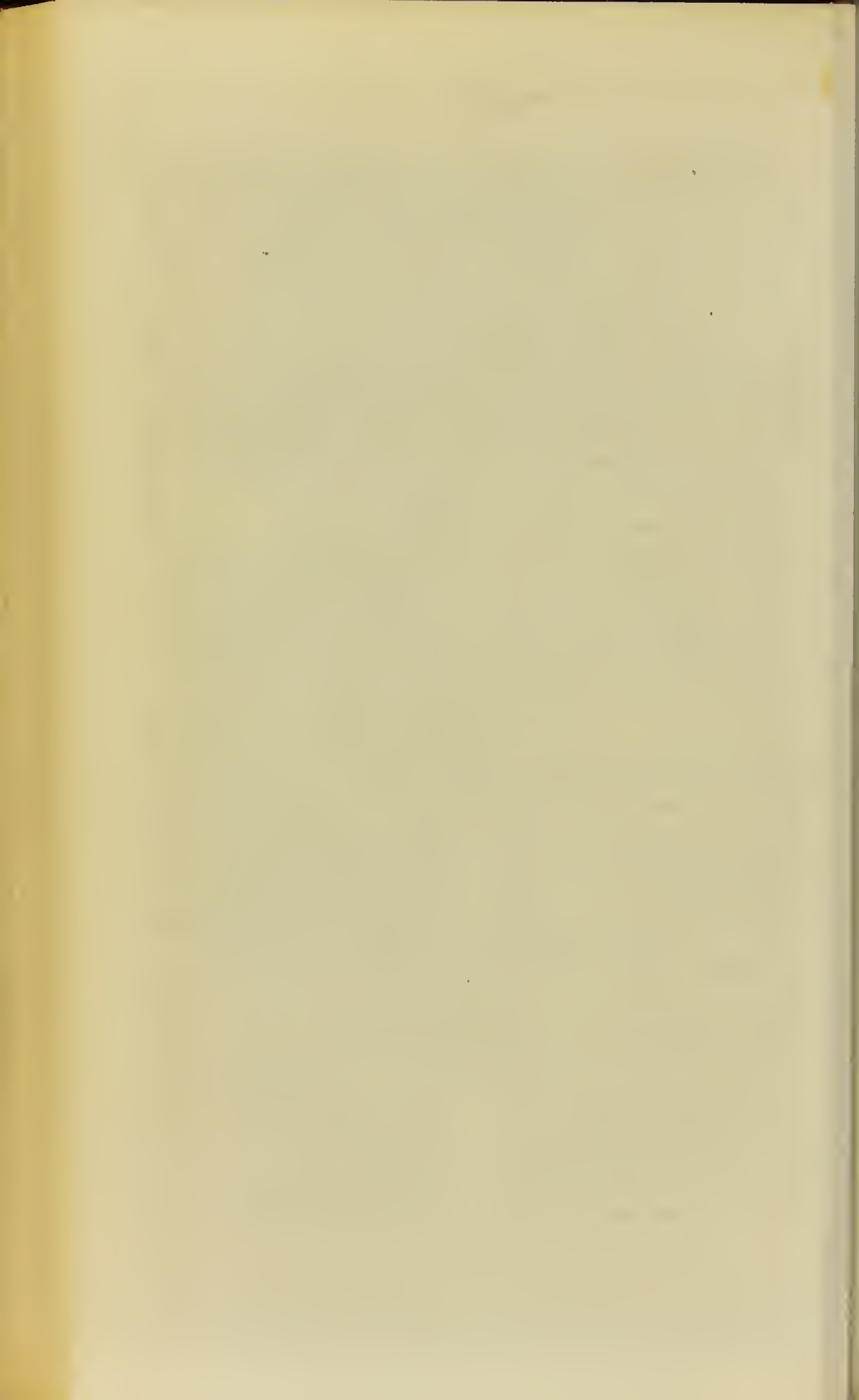
Your obedient and humble servant,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

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# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 41.

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## TWO REPORTS

ON THE

## CONDITION OF MILITARY HOSPITALS

AT

## GRAFTON, VA., AND CUMBERLAND, MD.

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PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION.

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### NOTICE.

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Immediately on Cumberland being placed within the Department of Western Virginia, the General commanding ordered the inspection, the results of which are detailed in the following Reports.

The 55th Ohio regiment had been but a short time within the limits of the Department when its condition was brought to the notice of the General.

Copies of these Reports have been furnished for publication, at the request of the Sanitary Commission, and with the approval of the Medical Director, Assistant Surgeon J. Letterman, U. S. A., and Brig. Gen. Rosecrans, U. S. A., commanding the Mountain Department, (lately the Department of Western Virginia.)

It is manifest that the sick and wounded volunteers, crowded into these hospitals, so called, have been exposed to greater dangers, and allowed less chance of recovery, than if lodged in tents or the rudest sheds.

Cleanliness and abundant fresh air are the first and most indispensable conditions of recovery from disease or injury. In both respects these hospitals were found grossly deficient.

It is well settled that 1,200 cubic feet of air to each patient is the very smallest allowance under which he can expect a favorable convalescence. And this is obviously no extravagant estimate, for it represents a space only (10×10×12) ten feet square by twelve in height.

It appears from these Reports that in several instances only about two hundred cubic feet of air had been allowed to each patient. In one instance, only one hundred and twenty-six feet to each, which is equivalent to a space six feet by four, and less than six feet in height; and in another, only eighty-four feet, being the amount of space contained in *a cube of a little more than four feet.*

Even with the most rigorous attention to cleanliness and hygiene, this over crowding could not fail to produce disastrous mortality ; but when buildings thus over crowded are found in the condition of filth described in these Reports, with scanty supplies of hospital stores, and deficient medical attendance, they appear to embody all the conditions necessary to constitute a pest-house.

Other defects in these buildings, and their system of administration, will be readily perceived, but they are comparatively unimportant.

The frightful abuses and defects disclosed by these Reports appear to have been remedied in the case of the hospitals to which they particularly refer. But there is reason to believe that these cases are by no means exceptional ; and the fact that evils so monstrous have been allowed to exist for a single day in a single hospital, is amply sufficient to justify the communication lately made to Congress by our wise and humane Secretary of War, that the present organization of the Medical Bureau is inadequate to the wants of the service.

It is respectfully submitted that Congress can have before it no work of more urgent importance than that of ascertaining who is responsible for the condition in which these hospitals were found, and for the wasted lives of their inmates : of inquiring whether there be not other military hospitals equally crowded, filthy, and pestilential, to which the sick or wounded volunteer is consigned, nominally to be cured, but in fact to be poisoned by foul air, and at best retarded in his recovery ; and finally, of devising efficient measures to terminate forever abuses so destructive to the army and so disgraceful to the nation.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.,

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED.

WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.,

GEO. T. STRONG,

*Executive Committee of United States Sanitary Commission.*



## REPORT ON HOSPITALS AT GRAFTON, VA.

GRAFTON, VA., *March 10, 1862.*

SIR—In compliance with telegraphic instructions received whilst at Cumberland, I inspected to-day the 55th Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, encamped at this place. The inspection was, of course, limited to the sanitary condition of the regiment.

The 55th has been five months in service, and has been stationed at Grafton since the 17th of February. The camp is located on a knoll, on the south side of the river, and, as far as situation goes, it may be considered advantageously placed. The soil and subsoil are clay, which is bad, on account of its retaining moisture a long time. At present, the mud is six or eight inches deep all over the camp ground.

The tents are in a very bad state of police, and, for a permanent camp, over crowded. They contain from ten to fourteen men each. The effluvia from them, on entering, was stifling. The straw is changed once a week. The tents have not been struck since the regiment has been at Grafton, and, consequently, the ground over which they are pitched must be reeking with gaseous emanations from the men. They are partly floored; the boards are not placed upon joists, but directly on the ground.

The camp sink is located between the tents and the river. It is covered with fresh earth about twice a week, when the medical officer specially sees to it. The men, however, generally make use of the ground in the vicinity.

It can scarcely be expected that proper sanitary measures will be enforced in this camp, so long as the field officers do not reside in it, and experience the discomfort which arises from their neglect. The Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major, occupy a house in a high, airy situation, half a mile from the camp.

I find the medical officer in charge active and energetic in the discharge of his duties, which are onerous in the extreme.

The Surgeon is absent, sick, and the whole medical care of a large number of sick falls upon the Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Spooner.

The measles appeared in this regiment on the 13th of February. At that time 165 men of the command had never had that disease; of this number, 100 have since had it. The probability is, that unless something is done to arrest its progress, the remaining 65 will have it. There has also been a good deal of other sickness, consisting principally of chest affections, diarrhœa, and dysentery. At present, there are, as near as can be ascertained, 120 sick; which, in a force of 950 men, is excessive. One-seventh of the command is thus unfit for duty.

Of the sick, the greater portion are scattered about the town, in private houses. The hospital embraces five hospital tents and two frame houses.

The tents contain 18 men, mostly cases of measles. They are in a tolerably good state of police, and the men would be comfortable, but for the fact of the lamentable deficiency of bedding. There are bunks, badly made, and straw alone. No bedsacks, nor any other articles of bedding, have been received from the United States, except 40 blankets.

House *A* has four rooms occupied by the sick. One is  $8 \times 12 \times 7 = 672$  cubic feet, about half the quantity of space requisite for one patient, and yet there are *eight men* in this horrible den; each man has, therefore, *eighty-four cubic feet* of space. Can it be wondered that men die of measles, (a proverbially mild disease,) when crowded in this manner? The stench from this room was sickening. There were but two windows, and they were closed.

On the same floor is another room  $10 \times 12 \times 7 = 840$  cubic feet, with three windows. It contained six men. It is a dark, dismal room, the windows being closed, and covered with India rubber cloth to keep out the light, and to retain the moisture as much as possible.

On the second floor are two rooms; one is  $10 \times 12 \times 7 = 840$  cubic feet, has four windows, and contains four men. The other is  $15 \times 15 \times 7 = 1,575$  cubic feet. It has four windows, and contains six men.

The following table embraces the foregoing facts, and shows the proper capacity of the house, giving to each patient the *minimum* allowance of 1,200 eubic feet of space:

	Capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of patients.	Proper number of patients.
1 room .....	672	8	$\frac{1}{3}$
1 " .....	840	6	$\frac{2}{3}$
1 " .....	840	4	$\frac{2}{3}$
1 " .....	1,575	6	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Total.....	3,927	24	$3\frac{1}{2}$

Throughout the entire building, as an average, the patients have but about one hundred and sixty-three eubic feet of space each.

The police is very bad. No bedding but straw, bunks, and the men's own blankets, with such odds and ends as have been furnished by the Sanitary Commission and individuals.

House *B* is a small two-story frame structure, with two rooms as wards, and a kitchen. The latter is very dirty. One of the wards is  $14 \times 14 \times 7 = 1,372$  eubic feet of space. It has three windows, and contains seven patients. The other is the same size, has two windows, and contains five men. In this building there are accommodations for two men. *It contains twelve.* Each patient has, therefore, about 229 eubic feet of space. The police of the building is not different from that of the other, and there is the same deficiency of bedding.

Only 44 of the 120 sick are in hospital. The others are scattered about the town in private houses.

Since the regiment has been at this place, ten men have died; one of typhoid fever, one of pneumonia, and eight of measles. The probability (almost amounting to a certainty) is, that, had these last named been properly supplied with bedding and air, their lives would have been saved.

I directed the medical officer in charge to make out a requisition for what he wanted for the comfort of the sick, and send it to you for your approval.

I have to suggest the following means for improving the sanitary condition of this regiment:



1st. That the commanding officer be directed to move his camp, if only to the distance of a few hundred yards, and to spread his encampment over a larger area. His men are now inhabiting a space of 30,000 square yards, and the population of his camp is at the rate of 1,000,000 to the square mile; and is more densely settled, by five fold, than the densest and most degraded parts of London. There is an excellent site for a camp on the north side of the river, where the 15th Ohio regiment was encamped.

2d. That his attention be called to the filthy state of police which prevails, and that he be directed to strike his tents and change their location a few feet every week.

3. That a shed capable of accommodating properly fifty patients be built as soon as possible, upon the plan specified in my report on the condition of the Cumberland Hospitals.

4th. That the houses now used as hospitals be immediately abandoned, and the sick placed temporarily in floored hospital tents.

5th. That additional medical aid be supplied as soon as possible.

I believe it would be better to remove the 55th entirely from Grafton.

There may be military reasons against this measure; there can be none, however, against those above recommended.

If something is not done soon to lessen the sanitary evils under which this regiment now labors, the heat and moisture of spring will undoubtedly increase the amount of sickness and mortality.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obt. servt.,

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,

Assist. Surg. U. S. A.

DR. J. LETTERMAN,

Assist. Surg. U. S. A., Med. Director,

Wheeling, Va.

## REPORT ON HOSPITALS AT CUMBERLAND, &amp;c.

WHEELING, VA., *March* 12, 1862.

SIR—I have the honor to report that I left Wheeling on the morning of the 6th inst., in pursuance of the following order:

“HEADQUARTERS DEP’T OF WESTERN VA.,  
“WHEELING, VA., *March* 5, 1862.

“SPECIAL ORDERS, }  
“No. 52. }

\* \* \* \* \*

“8. Assistant Surgeon W. A. Hammond, U. S. A., will  
“proceed without delay to Cumberland, Md., and inspect the  
“Hospitals at that place. He will examine them in reference  
“to their adaptability for the proper care of the sick, their  
“location, the number and size of the rooms, and the num-  
“ber of patients in each building, and the number of sick  
“that each building can properly accommodate; the light,  
“ventilation, diet, and cooking, and police; the supply of  
“medicines, hospital stores, &c., and the quantity and quality  
“of beds and bedding, and their condition in each hospital.

“He will ascertain the number of cooks and nurses in each,  
“and whether properly instructed in their duties.

“He will also ascertain the names of the medical officers  
“in each hospital, and the manner in which their duties  
“are discharged.

“He will not confine himself to the subjects enumerated  
“in this order, but will examine any others that the interests  
“of the service may seem to him to require.

“He will, as soon as practicable, return to these head-  
“quarters, and report the result of his observations in writ-  
“ing to the Medical Director, with such suggestions as he  
“may think the subject demands.

“By order of Brig. Gen. ROSECRANS,

“(Signed)

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

“Assist. Adjt. General.”

I arrived in Cumberland the same evening, and left in about an hour for Clarysville, at which place Brigade Surgeon

George Suckley was establishing a convalescent hospital. Thirty-eight men from the hospitals in Cumberland accompanied us—one hundred and five, with rations, and such limited bedding and comforts as could be spared, having been sent up in the morning.

On the 7th I proceeded to make a thorough inspection of the place.

Clarysville is a small hamlet of some eight or ten buildings, about eight miles from Cumberland. It is located on the National Road, and on the railroad to Frostburg, on a narrow plateau, 1,570 feet above the level of the sea, and over 1,000 feet above Cumberland.

High hills bound this plateau on the north and south, but it is open on the east and west. The soil is of a loamy character, and the subsoil a heavy clay. The geological features are those of the Alleghany Mountains, in the midst of which Clarysville is situated. A stream of water flows through the gorge, but it is impregnated with sulphur from the mines, and consequently will not answer for drinking. The water used for drinking is from surface springs, and is remarkably pure. It is abundant.

The whole place has been hired at thirty dollars per month, a portion of this, according to the agreement, being expended in making necessary repairs.

Before proceeding to report the result of my inspection, it is proper to call to mind that the buildings were only occupied the day previous, and that no time had been afforded to clean them or put them in order. The terribly crowded condition of the Cumberland hospitals rendered it imperative upon Dr. Suckley to do all in his power to empty them—even with the certainty of much discomfort to the sick who were transferred.

In the following report the buildings are designated by the letters of the alphabet:

#### A.

This is a brick building two stories high, with attic. Has verandahs to both the first and second stories, front and rear. Those to the back of the building are used as mess-rooms. It is proposed to board them up, so as to shelter them from the



weather; but this would cut off light and air, to a considerable extent, from the wards opening on them.

*First Floor.* A wide hall runs through the centre of the main building, with two rooms on each side.

These rooms are each  $24 \times 20 \times 11$  feet in dimensions, and, therefore, contain 5,280 cubic feet. The corner rooms have four windows; each of the others two. The rooms on one side communicate by folding doors. At the time of my visit the rooms were crowded to excess. Fifteen men occupied each. The air was close and offensive, the supply of light good, and the capacity for ventilation very fair.

The kitchen is situated in the back building, and is of ample size. It contains a good cooking stove and large fireplace. The police was bad, and the walls were black with smoke and dirt.

*Second Floor.* A wide hall, like that of the lower floor, runs through the centre to the front and back verandahs.

There are seven rooms on this floor. Five of these are in the main building. One is  $24 \times 20 \times 10 = 4,800$  cubic feet; has four windows, with plenty of light and capacity for ventilation. Police bad; fifteen occupants.

Four are each  $20 \times 20 \times 10 = 4,000$  cubic feet. One has three windows, and the others two each. Each has ten occupants.

There is also a small room with no windows, which could be used as a store-room.

In the back building, opening on the verandah, are two rooms, each  $20 \times 20 \times 10 = 4,000$  cubic feet. One has two windows, the other only one. There were eleven men in each.

The attic of the main building has also a wide hall, and three rooms. The largest is  $20 \times 12 \times 6 = 1,440$  cubic feet; the other two are each  $12 \times 10 \times 6 = 720$  cubic feet. These rooms, though having very low ceilings, are well ventilated and lighted. They were not occupied, but would do for cooks or nurses.

The attic of the back building is not habitable.

The capacity of this hospital (having a due regard to hygienic considerations, and the number of inmates it has at present) is as follows:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total cubic feet.	Total number of inmates at present.	Proper number of inmates.
4 rooms.....	5,280	21,120	60	18
1 " .....	4,800	4,800	15	4
6 " .....	4,000	24,000	62	20
Total.....	.....	49,920	137	42

The basis of the above calculation is that each man sick in hospital requires at least 1,200 cubic feet of space. If he gets less than this, with all the advantages of perfect ventilation, recovery is invariably retarded, and a fatal result often induced. *The inmates of this building have but a little more than 364 cubic feet, an amount only half that which is proper for well men in barracks, who have free access to the open air at all times and seasons.*

## B.

This is a frame building, formerly used as a store. It is entirely insulated from the other structures.

There is no hall, the front door opening directly into a room  $30 \times 30 \times 10 = 9,000$  cubic feet; has but two windows.

Back of this, and connected with it by a door, is a room  $20 \times 20 \times 8 = 3,200$  cubic feet. This room has four windows, at opposite sides. Ventilation good, with plenty of light.

*Second Floor.* One large room  $60 \times 30 \times 12$ . The last figure is approximate, the room being unceiled. The cubic contents are, therefore, about 21,600 feet. This house is unoccupied at present. It requires cleaning and whitewashing. The capacity is as follows:

	Capacity in cubic feet.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	9,000	7
1 " .....	3,200	3
1 " .....	21,800	18
Total.....	33,800	28

## C.

This is a frame shed, unceiled ; one door, with two small windows. It is  $28 \times 20 \times 12 = 6,720$  eubic feet. It will, when put in order, accommodate five patients.

## D.

This is a small two-story house, at present occupied by a private family. It was not inspected, but will accommodate about ten patients.

## E.

This is a small two-story frame house.

*First Floor.* One room  $20 \times 15 \times 8 = 2,400$  eubic feet ; has two windows. One room  $12 \times 15 \times 9 = 1,620$  cubic feet, with two windows ; and one,  $10 \times 15 \times 10 = 1,500$  cubie feet, with two windows. Thirty men slept in these rooms the preceding night.

*Second Floor.* One room  $20 \times 20 \times 7 = 2,800$  eubic feet, with three windows. This room has not yet been occupied.

	Capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	2,400	30	2
1 " .....	1,620		1
1 " .....	1,500		1
1 " .....	2,800		2
Total.....	8,320	30	6

There was no time to clean this house before it was occupied. It was in a very bad condition. The air of the rooms in which the men had slept was perfectly stifling.

## F.

This is another small two-story frame house, on the opposite side of the road from the others. The rooms are so small that it will not answer for patients. It might be useful as a storehouse. A few men slept in it the previous night.



There are, therefore, accommodations at Clarysville, at present, for 81 patients and attendants, instead of the 175 which now are there. There are two large barns, however, which, with repairs and large stoves, will accommodate 50 men each.

In addition to the buildings named, there are several out-houses, which serve for surgery, guard-house, privy, &c. This latter will, when put in order, answer the purpose very well.

I should have stated that all the rooms are heated by large grates, except two or three, where stoves will be required. There is a large garden attached.

The establishment is under the charge of Dr. Townsend, a citizen physician who resides in the neighborhood. A ward-master is the only person exercising authority, who lives on the premises.

The nurses are inexperienced. The ward-master in charge appears to be an energetic person, but is uneducated. There is an apothecary, who is an intelligent man. The cooking is only tolerable. The bread is good, being baked in Cumberland. The food was all of good quality, and in sufficient quantity. No attention appeared to be paid to diet. All ate alike. The hospital stores have not all been brought up yet. The bedding is deficient both in quantity and quality. There are no blankets, sheets, or coverlets; no pillows, nor pillow-ticks, nor cases; no bunks; nothing, in fact, but bed-sacks filled with straw, and the blankets of the men. Neither is there any probability of any improvement, in this respect, from the supplies on hand.

In reference to this establishment, I cannot too highly commend the energy displayed by Dr. Suekley in fitting it up. When put in order, it will make an admirable place for convalescents, as the fresh bracing air cannot fail to exercise a salutary effect upon them. But I would earnestly recommend that orders be issued fixing the capacity of the institution in accordance with the principle set forth in this report. Otherwise, it will inevitably fall into the condition of those in Cumberland.

I returned to Cumberland on the 7th instant, immediately after having finished the inspection above detailed, and proceeded to inspect the several hospital buildings in that place.

These are fifteen in number, and are designated by the letters of the alphabet. They are all situated immediately on the street, and are hotels, warehouses, engine-houses, &c.

### A.

This is a three-story brick building, formerly used as a hotel, (Barnum's,) on Baltimore street. It is badly placed for ventilation, and the surroundings are filthy in the extreme.

*First Floor.* The main hall is large, but in a shocking state of police.

Two large rooms on this floor, and opening into the hall, are used as surgery and office. In addition, there are several other large rooms.

Ward 1 is a good room— $36 \times 18 \times 11 = 7,128$  cubic feet. It has recently been occupied by 27 men, lying on the floor as thickly as they could be packed, *each man having about 23 square feet of space.* It is in a horrible condition. Straw is scattered all over the floor, upon which are placed three rows of filthy bed-sacks, with no other bedding. It is now empty, the occupants having been sent to Clarysville. It has four windows, and three doors. The light is good, and with a little management the ventilation might be made tolerable. Walls papered and very dirty.

Ward 2. This is also empty at present. On the day before my inspection it contained 25 men. It is  $25 \times 18 \times 11 = 4,950$  cubic feet. Each patient has had, therefore, 18 square feet of space, or not quite 200 cubic feet. It has two windows and four doors. Is filthy in the extreme.

Ward 3 is  $48 \times 24 \times 11 = 12,672$  cubic feet; has six windows and three doors, good light and ventilation, and might be made a comparatively good ward. It has recently been occupied by 100 men, who had each 11.5 *square feet, or 126 cubic feet of space.* This room is now full of old straw, which has been used for bedding.

The night after my inspection, these rooms were again filled by a fresh arrival of patients, without having been cleaned in the meantime.

The mess room joins Ward 3. It is  $24 \times 12 \times 11 = 3,168$  cubic feet. Is a good room for the purpose, except as regards size. Is in a filthy condition.

The kitchen joins this room—is  $24 \times 16 \times 11 = 4,124$  cubic feet. Is a good room for the purpose. Has one range, one cooking stove, and a large fireplace. Is stinking and filthy in the extreme. Cooking tolerable—food good—vegetables every day.

The condition of the yard of this building defies description. It is simply disgusting. The outhouses are filled with dirty clothes, such as sheets, bed-sacks, shirts, &c., which have been soiled by discharges from sick men. The privy is fifty yards from the house, and is filthy and offensive, *ad nauseam*. It consists of a shed built over two trenches. No seats; simply a pole, passing along each trench, for the men to sit on.

*Second Floor.* Ward 9 is  $15 \times 12 \times 9 = 1,620$  cubic feet. Has three windows. Light good; *contains five men*; police bad; stench from the room stifling.

Ward 10. Same sized room as preceding—*contains six men*; police very bad; two of the men sleep on the floor.

Ward 8. Same sized room as preceding—*contains five men*; police shocking.

The other rooms on this floor, in this, the main part of the building, are occupied by medical officers, and male and female nurses. One of these rooms, occupied by a male nurse, is worse than a pig-stye. The floor is soiled with excrement and almost every other imaginable kind of filth.

The back building of this story consists of a corridor, with rooms opening on it at each side. There is one room at the end.

The rooms are nine in number, and are each  $15 \times 10 \times 8 = 1,200$  cubic feet. They have each one window. *Six of them contain three men each; two, four men each; and one, five men.*

The police and general condition of these rooms is disgraceful. No attention whatever appears to be paid to ventilation or cleanliness.



The halls of this floor are extremely filthy.

*Third Floor.* In the main building, room 25 is  $20 \times 14 \times 11 = 3,080$  cubic feet; has one window, and *contains nine men!*

Room 28 is  $14 \times 14 \times 10 = 1,960$  cubic feet; has two windows, and contains *four men*. Room 36 is  $12 \times 8 \times 10 = 960$  cubic feet; has one window, and contains *four men!*

Room 37 is  $10 \times 14 \times 10 = 1,400$  cubic feet; has one window, and contains three men. Room 38 is  $12 \times 15 \times 10 = 1,800$  cubic feet; has one window, and contains five men.

Room 39. Same size as the preceding; has one window, and contains three men.

These rooms form no exception to the others, as regards police, ventilation, &c. They are so much crowded that it is impossible well men could exist in them, and preserve their healthy condition.

The back building of this story contains ten rooms, similar in size, number of windows, &c., to those of the story below. Two contain two men each; three, three men each; and five, four men each. Ventilation is entirely disregarded, and the police deplorably bad. Bed pans and chamber pots, containing urine and excrement, were standing in many of the rooms out on the floor, uncovered. The stairs are crowded with chamber pots, slop buckets, and other utensils.

The capacity of this hospital, the number of inmates it now has, and the number it should have, are shown in the accompanying table:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total cubic feet.	Total number of inmates at present.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	7,128	7,128	Empty.	6*
1 ".....	4,950	4,950		4
1 ".....	12,672	12,672		12
2 ".....	1,620	3,240		3
9 ".....	1,200	10,800	10	9
1 ".....	3,080	3,080	21	9
1 ".....	1,960	1,960	9	2½
1 ".....	960	960	4	1½
1 ".....	1,400	1,400	4	1*
2 ".....	1,800	3,600	3	1
10 ".....	1,200	12,000	8	3
			33	10
Total.....		61,790	92	52

\* This table requires explanation.

It will be seen that but 92 inmates are reported. On the morning of my visit, the morning report of this hospital stated that there were 159 patients and 47 attendants. 113 inmates are therefore unaccounted for. Some slept in the offices, *but the great majority must have slept on the floors of the rooms in use as wards.* The three large rooms on the first floor, containing 24,750 cubic feet of space, were not in use; they were, in fact, locked when I made my visit. The total amount of space available, then, for patients, was but 37,040 cubic feet. If we add to this 10,000 cubic feet (a large estimate) for the rooms occupied by female nurses, the offices, &c., we have 205 *persons occupying 47,040 cubic feet, or about 229 cubic feet each.*

I found it impossible to ascertain where these men slept, and therefore I have judged of the number of inmates in a ward by the number of bunks in it. It is seen, however, that my estimate was far below the mark.

I do not hesitate to say, that such a condition of affairs *does not exist in any other hospital in the civilized world*; and that this hospital is altogether worse than any which were such *approbria* to the allies in the Crimean war.

It is under charge of Drs. ——— and ———, the former a citizen, and the latter belonging to an Ohio regiment not on duty in this department. He was sent by the Governor of Ohio. There are five wardmasters, twenty-seven nurses, five cooks, and ten matrons. The nurses are uninstructed, and their duties very badly performed.

### B.

This hospital is "Belvidere Hall," and is situated on Baltimore street. It consists of two floors.

*First Floor.* Ward 1 is  $75 \times 20 \times 12 = 18,000$  cubic feet. It contains 30 men. It is badly lighted, at one end only, and is not at all sufficiently ventilated. The police is bad.

Ward 2 is the same size as the preceding, and similarly lighted. It contains 31 men. The police is bad.

The kitchen is a tolerably good room. It has one range and one cooking stove. The cooking appears to be good. The police is bad.

The yard is in a horrible condition, as is the privy.

Ward 3 is in the 2d story, and is "Belvidere Hall" proper. It is  $75 \times 40 \times 25 = 75,000$  cubic feet. The beds, to the number of 60, are arranged in four rows, which, of itself, is bad. Light and ventilation good. The whole front is composed of windows, and there is ceiling ventilation. Police and general condition bad.

Ward 4. This is in the rear of the preceding ward. It is  $40 \times 20 \times 10 = 8,000$  cubic feet. It contains 17 men. The police is bad.

The following table is appended:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total cubic capacity.	Number of in- mates at present.	Proper number of inmates.
2 rooms.....	18,000	36,000	61	30
1 ".....	75,000	75,000	60	62
1 ".....	8,000	8,000	17	6
Total.....	.....	119,000	138	98

One ward in this building, and the only one in the place, is not over crowded. The rest have too many inmates, and consequently the average allowance of cubic feet per man is reduced to about 848.

This hospital is under charge of Surg. ———, of an Ohio regiment, not in service in this department. There are one wardmaster, fourteen nurses, five cooks, and two matrons. The nurses are inexperienced.

### C.

This is the upper floor of a building, the lower story of which is not rented. It, also, is situated on Baltimore street.

The kitchen is a shed in the yard, and is in as good a condition as circumstances will allow. It has one cooking stove. The cooking is good, the pantry in excellent order, and the utensils clean. The yard and privy are disgustingly filthy. Hall dirty.

The ward is  $48 \times 36 \times 14 = 14,192$  cubic feet. It contains 27 patients and 9 attendants—total, 36. The beds are



arranged in four rows. There are eight windows at opposite sides. The ventilation is comparatively good, the windows being kept partly open at the top. The light is good. The poliee is bad. At the time of my visit, several bedpans were standing unemptied about the room.

This is the *typhoid fever* hospital. The patients look badly. Erysipelas has appeared among them. They are altogether too much crowded. In an hospital of this character, at least 1,500 cubic feet of space should be allowed to each man; so that the capacity does not exceed nine men. At present there are 36, who have only a little over 394 cubic feet of space each. A condition, therefore, exists which is deplorable in the extreme, and yet this ward is not so full as it was a short time since. It is under charge of Dr. ———, who was sick when I made my inspection. Dr. ——— has charge at present. Both are citizen physicians.

#### D.

This hospital is also situated on Baltimore street. It is an unplastered warehouse of three stories, closed entirely at the sides.

The first floor is only partially used. There is a mess room some sixty feet long, and with scarcely any light, there being but one small window at the end. It is extremely dirty.

Behind this is the kitchen. It is badly lighted and ventilated, and very filthy. It was crowded with soldiers and women, romping together. It contains a good range, and a cooking stove.

The yard is unutterably filthy. The privy is built over a running stream, but it is so dirty that the wonder is how men can use it.

*Second Floor.* This is taken up with two wards, each  $80 \times 20 \times 10 = 16,000$  cubic feet. One contains twenty-three beds, the other thirty—all occupied. There are three windows in each ward. The rooms are unplastered, dark, and badly ventilated. Poliee and general condition bad.

*Third Floor.* This floor has two wards, each  $40 \times 20 \times 10 = 8,000$  cubic feet. They have each two windows. They are unplastered, and are dismal and badly ventilated rooms.

The ventilation is, however, better than in the rooms below, as the effluvia can, to some extent, escape through numerous holes in the roof, the rooms being unceiled. One contains 19 inmates, and the other 18.

There are, at present, ninety patients and nine attendants.

The latter sleep on the floor in the mess room, &c.

The proper capacity of this house is seen from the following table:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
2 rooms.....	16,000	32,000	53	27
2 " .....	8,000	16,000	37	13
Total.....	.....	48,000	90	40

Each patient has, therefore, only about 532 cubic feet of space. This hospital is so badly lighted and ventilated that it is altogether unfit for the purpose. It is under the immediate charge of Dr. Watson, a citizen physician.

## N.

This is an appendage to "D." It is the upper story of an engine house, situated in the rear of "D" hospital. It is  $50 \times 30 \times 16 = 24,000$  cubic feet. It is well lighted, and ventilated from windows in the sides and ends. It has contained as many as thirty-six men. It now has seventeen in it. Police bad. The cooking is done at the kitchen of "D." Dr. ——— has charge. It is capable of comfortably accommodating twenty men, and is therefore not over crowded.

## O.

This hospital is situated in Baltimore street. There are no wards on the first floor, which is occupied for mercantile purposes. The halls are very dirty, and the yard and privy disgustingly filthy.

*Second Floor.* There are three wards on this floor, each  $20 \times 20 \times 9 = 3,600$  cubic feet. They have two windows each. Two contain seven beds each; the other, twelve; all are occupied.

These wards are in tolerably good condition, are well lighted, and have tolerable ventilation. They are very much over crowded.

The mess room and kitchen (one room) occupies the front of the house on this floor. It is  $36 \times 20 \times 9 = 6,480$  cubic feet. It has one cooking stove; is very dirty; cooking tolerably good,

*Third Floor.* One room  $45 \times 57 \times 8 = 23,085$  cubic feet. It has eight windows at opposite sides, and is occupied by thirty-eight men in four rows of beds. Light and ventilation good. Police tolerable. Is heated by a stove.

One room  $20 \times 30 \times 8 = 4,800$  cubic feet, has five windows and sixteen beds, all occupied. Police tolerable. Heated by a stove.

One room  $18 \times 20 \times 8 = 2,880$  cubic feet, has twelve occupants; three windows. Police tolerable.

This building, therefore, contains ninety-two men. Of these eighty are patients. It is altogether too much crowded. The police, though not so bad as in other hospitals in Cumberland, is yet such as should not prevail in any institution intended for the reception and treatment of the sick and wounded.

The following table shows, at a glance, the capacity of this house:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
3 rooms.....	3,600	10,800	26	9
1 " .....	23,085	23,085	38	19
1 " .....	4,800	4,800	16	4
1 " .....	2,880	2,880	12	2
Total.....	.....	41,565	92	34

At present, each man has but 450 cubic feet of space, instead of the minimum of 1,200. This hospital is under charge of Medical Cadet — — —.

### E.

This, like the other hospitals described, is on Baltimore street. The lower floor is not occupied by the hospital.



The kitchen is on the 2d floor. It is a small, dirty hole, without a window; has a range. The cooking for "F" hospital, which joins this, is done here.

The halls and staircases of this building are filthy in the extreme.

One room  $54 \times 14 \times 10 = 7,560$  cubic feet; has four windows at opposite ends of the room; has eighteen occupants. Carpet is used, in many instances, for bed covering. Police very bad. Ventilation bad.

One room irregularly shaped,  $40 \times 15$  (average)  $\times 13 = 7,800$  cubic feet (approximate.) Has four windows and twenty inmates. Police bad. Ventilation bad.

*Third Floor.* Front room  $20 \times 18 \times 14 = 1,440$  cubic feet; has three windows, good light and ventilation; *has nine occupants.* Police tolerable.

There is no yard to this building, and the men defecate no one seems to know where. The general condition of this house is very bad.

It has sixty-nine inmates. Of these, fifty-seven are patients, and twelve attendants. Only forty-seven of the whole occupy beds in the wards; the remainder sleep in the halls, on the floors, &c.

The following table is appended:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Number of in- mates in each.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	7,560	18	6
1 ".....	7,800	20	6
1 ".....	1,440	9	1
Total.....	16,800	47	13

Without counting those who sleep no one knows where, (twenty-two in number,) each of the above men has 375 cubic feet of space. Including these twenty-two, there are 243 cubic feet per man. In one ward, where there are now nine persons, there are but 160 *cubic feet for each.*

This hospital is under charge of Medical Cadet ———, who has had the superintendence but two days.

## F

This hospital joins the former, and is under the same management. The first floor is not hired.

*Second Floor.* There are here two rooms connected by folding doors. The two constitute, in reality, one room  $54 \times 18 \times 10 = 9,720$  cubic feet. There are two windows at each end. The light is good; the ventilation might be so. There are twenty inmates. Police bad. The floor is disgustingly dirty, and the walls filthy.

One room  $50 \times 18 \times 14 = 12,600$  cubic feet. This is a good room, well lighted, and might be well ventilated; has twenty-three beds, all occupied. Police bad.

*Third Floor.* On this floor is one room similar to that last described, and of same size. It contains twenty occupants.

This house is crowded to excess, and, as a consequence, the ventilation is bad.

The proper number of inmates for this hospital, upon the basis already mentioned, is shown in the following table:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	9,720	9,720	20	8
2 " .....	12,600	25,200	43	21
Total.....	.....	34,920	63	29

The occupants at present have about 554 cubic feet each. Of the sixty-three, six are attendants.

## H.

This building is a warehouse situated on the canal, the water of which, at times, runs into the cellar. It is three stories high.

On the 1st floor is the kitchen, which is of good size and in tolerable order. It has one range and one cooking stove; is  $25 \times 25 \times 14 = 8,750$  cubic feet. The cooking is good. There are five beds in the kitchen, occupied by the cooks. On this floor is also a ward  $30 \times 30 \times 14 = 12,600$  cubic feet. It contains 16 beds, all occupied. It is heated by a stove,

has but two windows, and is badly lighted and ventilated; is unplastered. Pollee tolerable.

*Second Floor.* Has one room  $57 \times 30 \times 10 = 17,100$  eubic feet; has thirty-five inmates; is unplastered; has five windows. Light bad, as is also the ventilation. Pollee bad. Is heated by a stove.

*Third Floor.* One room, same size, &c., as one below; has 34 inmates. Pollee tolerable.

The following table is appended:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	8,750	8,750	16	7
2 " .....	17,100	34,200	69	28
Total.....	.....	42,950	85	35

Of the 85 above referred to, 78 were patients; the remaining seven were attendants. There were, in addition, several Sisters of Charity, who are not included in the above, as they did not reside in the building.

The inmates of this hospital have a little over 550 eubic feet of space each. It is under charge of Dr. ————, a citizen physician.

# 1.

This hospital has a situation similar to the one last described, and is the same character of building.

The kitchen is a shed detached from the main building; cooking good; pollee bad.

The mess room is in the main building on the 1st floor; is dark, dismal, and very dirty. It is flooded at high water; has four beds for cooks, which are very filthy.

*Second Floor.* 1 room  $50 \times 26 \times 12 = 15,600$  eubic feet—has twenty-two inmates, is unplastered, badly lighted and ventilated; has two stoves.

*Third Floor.* Has two large rooms, each the same size as the preceding, except as regards height. Being unceiled and having high pitched roofs, the number of eubic feet is



materially increased. Each is of about 30,000 cubic feet capacity. One has twenty-eight, the other thirty-four inmates. Holes have been broken in the wall for ventilation. These, with numerous cracks and openings in the roof, accomplish the purpose very well. There are five windows in each. Police bad.

The following table shows the capacity of this house :

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	15,600	15,600	25	13
2 " .....	30,000	60,000	62	50
Total.....	.....	75,600	87	63

Each inmate has now 869 cubic feet of space. Of the 87 inmates, 70 are patients. The two upper wards of this building are the best ventilated of any I have examined in Cumberland.

Dr. ————, a citizen physician, has charge.

## P.

This hospital is situated on a back street. It embraces two buildings, one brick, and the other frame, each two stories high. The hall is in tolerably good order.

*First Floor.* 1 room  $14 \times 14 \times 7 = 1,372$  cubic feet; has 5 occupants. Police tolerable; ventilation bad; air stifling; has three windows.

1 room  $14 \times 14 \times 8 = 1,568$  cubic feet; has two windows. Police and ventilation bad; light good; *contains nine men!*

1 room  $18 \times 16 \times 8 = 2,304$  cubic feet; has three windows. Police tolerable; ventilation bad; has five inmates.

*Second Floor.* 1 room  $14 \times 14 \times 7\frac{1}{2} = 1,165$  cubic feet; has two windows, and *contains eight men!* Police and ventilation bad.

1 room  $33 \times 16 \times 7\frac{1}{2} = 3,960$  cubic feet; has four windows and *eighteen beds, all occupied!* Light good; police and ventilation bad.

1 room  $10 \times 10 \times 7\frac{1}{2} = 750$  cubic feet; has one window. Light and ventilation bad. Filthiness reigns supreme in

this room, which *contains five men*, two of whom sleep in one bed! The air from this room is suffocating.

On the lower floor is a good mess room in good order, and a kitchen, clean and in good police generally. The yard is shockingly dirty, as is the privy.

This hospital is excessively crowded, and should be at once abandoned.

The following table shows its real capacity:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	2,304	5	2
1 " .....	1,568	9	1½
1 " .....	1,165	8	1
1 " .....	3,960	18	3
1 " .....	750	5	½
1 " .....	1,372	5	1
Total.....	11,119	50	9

On an average, the men have, in this hospital, about 222 cubic feet of space each. In some of the rooms, however, the amount is *less than* 150. There are bad ventilation, bad bedding, bad nursing, and bad police. The men look badly, and the establishment is altogether a disgrace to humanity and to the country.

In addition to the sick (fifty in number) above referred to, there are about fifty men scattered over the town belonging to the command to which this hospital appertains. There are also six attendants not counted above. The establishment is under charge of Dr. ———, of the Maryland Home Brigade.

### M.

This hospital is situated on a side street, and consists of the upper floor of an engine house. There is a shed kitchen recently built. The cooking, from what I saw of it, is bad; dirt in all its forms prevails.

The yard and privy are both in a disgusting state of police.

The ward occupies the whole of the upper floor. It is a large room, but over crowded. It is  $48 \times 25 \times 20 = 24,000$  cubic feet. The light is good. There are nine large windows,

which afford excellent facilities for ventilation, which, however, are not improved. The air is bad, the police neglected, the beds very dirty. Some of the bunks were without bed sacks, the straw being placed on the slats.

This ward has, at the most, accommodation for but twenty men, instead of the thirty who now occupy it, and who have but 800 cubic feet of space each. Their condition is, however, comparatively comfortable, when compared with that of patients in others of the hospitals, but still far short of what is demanded by hygienic considerations. It is under charge of Dr. ———.

### G.

This is a building at the corner of Baltimore and Mechanic streets. It is three stories high, and was formerly a hotel. The halls are in a tolerable state of police.

*First Floor.* 1 room, used as ward and surgery, is  $40 \times 15 \times 10 = 6,000$  cubic feet. Has six inmates—four windows. Light good—police and ventilation bad.

Mess room same size as preceding room; police bad—used as sleeping room for the cooks. Kitchen communicates with the mess room, and is in tolerable order, though a very dingy room; cooking tolerable—has a range.

The yard is in a horrible condition, this and the stable being used as privies by the men. The privy is filthy beyond description.

*Second Story.* This is divided into a number of small rooms:

No. 7.	$15 \times 18 \times 10 = 2,700$	cubic feet,	one window,	four men.
" 8.	$15 \times 18 \times 10 = 2,700$	"	two	" five "
" 6.	$15 \times 18 \times 10 = 2,700$	"	two	" five "
" 3.	$15 \times 8 \times 10 = 1,200$	"	two	" four "
" 19.	$14 \times 12 \times 8 = 1,344$	"	two	" four "
" 20.	$10 \times 13 \times 9 = 1,170$	"	one	" five "
" 18.	$10 \times 13 \times 9 = 1,170$	"	two	" five "
" 9.	$18 \times 12 \times 10 = 2,160$	"	no window,	three "

On the *third floor* there are also a number of small rooms, as follows:

No. 10.	$15 \times 18 \times 9 = 2,430$	cubic feet,	one window,	six men.
" 11.	$20 \times 18 \times 9 = 3,240$	"	two	" four "
" 17.	$15 \times 15 \times 9 = 1,925$	"	two	" six "
" 13.	$24 \times 15 \times 9 = 3,240$	"	three	" seven "
" 14.	$15 \times 7 \times 9 = 945$	"	one	" four "
" 16.	$20 \times 15 \times 9 = 2,700$	"	three	" seven "
" 15.	$15 \times 8 \times 9 = 1,080$	"	two	" three "



In addition, there are a number of patients who sleep in various out-of-the-way places, and on the floors of the wards. These men are convalescent, and do not frequent the hospital, except at meal times and at night. The total number of inmates in this hospital is 169, of whom 138 are patients, and 31 attendants. The total capacity of this house, for patients and nurses, is 36,704 cubic feet. It will, therefore, at the most, accommodate 30 inmates. The 169 who now inhabit it have, on an average, about 272 cubic feet of space each.

This hospital is altogether filthy in the extreme. No attention is paid to ventilation, or the first principles of neatness. It is under charge of ———, an *enlisted man*!

## L.

This is the Academy building, and as a temporary hospital, is one admirably adapted to the purpose. It is situated on high ground, on the south side of the canal. It is isolated from other buildings, but its natural advantages are not improved by the physician in charge.

The yard and privy are, as usual with the Cumberland hospitals, in a very bad condition; the kitchen is a good shed, with one range. Police bad.

On the 1st floor are two fine large rooms, well lighted by five windows each. Ventilation might be made good, but is bad. Each of these rooms is  $45 \times 15 \times 12 = 14,100$  cubic feet. One is used also as a mess room, and has fifteen beds, all occupied. The other has nineteen inmates. The police of both is extremely bad.

On the 2d floor is one large room, well lighted at both sides and one end, by eleven windows. It is an admirable room, but ignorance has not made use of its advantages. The air in it is close and stifling.

This room is  $48 \times 48 \times 14 = 32,356$  cubic feet. It contains 39 inmates.

The following table is appended:

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
2 rooms.....	14,100	28,200	34	23
1 " .....	32,356	32,356	39	27
Total.....	.....	60,556	73	50

Of the present number of inmates, eight are attendants and sixty-five patients. Each man has about 830 cubic feet of space—quite a happy condition, when compared with others in this place. The physician in charge is Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, a citizen.

## II.

This hospital is located in the upper story of the Court-House, and is immediately opposite to "L." The yard is in a bad state of police, and the kitchen, a shed detached, is exceedingly dirty. There is a good range in it.

The main ward is a large room  $42 \times 50 \times 16 = 33,600$  cubic feet. It has six very large windows, which, with the shutters, were closed. The room was, therefore, dark and stinking. The number of inmates was thirty, and although less crowded than any other ward in the place but one, ignorance of sanitary science made it a disgrace.

Another ward,  $12 \times 15 \times 16 = 3,080$  cubic feet, was greatly over crowded, it having seven beds, all occupied. There are two large windows in this room, and it might be well ventilated. There is another room of the same size, occupied by the wardmaster.

The annexed table shows the capacity of the house :

	Capacity of each in cubic feet.	Total capacity in cubic feet.	Present number of inmates.	Proper number of inmates.
1 room.....	33,600	33,600	30	28
1 " .....	3,080	3,080	7	2
Total.....	.....	36,680	37	30

This house is, therefore, not greatly over crowded, each inmate having over 990 cubic feet of space. It is less crowded than any other hospital in the place, with one exception.

This completes my inspection of all the hospitals at Cumberland. There are yet some general facts which I desire to state :

1st. The supply of medicines and hospital stores is very scarce. There is no wine or brandy, and whiskey is bought at the place.

2d. The bedding in all is very scant, and, what there is, is of bad quality. No articles of bedding have been received from the United States, except a few blankets, which Dr. Suckley obtained from the quartermaster's department. The bedsacks are perfectly filthy, as there are no sheets to cover them with. Some of the hospitals have sheets enough to change with once in ten days.

3d. There is a great lack of hospital furniture ; the most common utensils are wanting.

4th. The physicians in charge of the several buildings are altogether inexperienced in the management of hospitals ; and the chief surgeon, Dr. ———, is by no means fitted to take the charge of such a large establishment as these hospitals constitute.

5th. The records are very imperfectly kept.

6th. Men are sick all over the town, of whom no account or care is taken. *Five died in ten days, without any record being had of them.*

7th. No attention is paid to the diet of the patients ; all eat alike. In not one of the hospitals did I see a diet table.

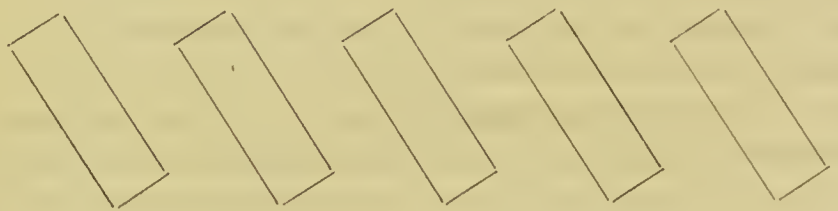
8th. The utmost confusion appears to exist about each hospital ; consequently duties are neglected, and a state of the most disgusting want of cleanliness exists.

With the view of mitigating, in some measure, the sanitary evils which exist at Cumberland, I make the following suggestions :

1st. I recommend that measures be at once taken to abandon all the buildings now occupied as hospitals in Cumberland, except L & K. As warm weather approaches, the mortality, which has already been fearful, will be greatly increased.



2d. That huts, each capable of accommodating fifty patients, with the necessary attendants, with others for the administrative offices, kitchens, &c., be at once erected. These huts should be each  $150 \times 30$  feet, ten feet high at the eaves, and unceiled. Each would, therefore, have over 70,000 cubic feet, if the roof, which it should be, is sufficiently high pitched. They should be ventilated at the sides and ends by windows, and at the top by ridge ventilation. Thirteen would, I think, be sufficient—ten for patients, one for offices, &c., and two for kitchens. The three latter need not be so large as the former, and might be differently arranged. These huts should be so placed that the wind, no matter from what quarter it should blow, would circulate freely around them. This would be accomplished by placing them *en echelon*, thus:



I think accommodation for 500 would be sufficient; as, by the time they could be erected, the number of sick would be reduced, by death, discharge, recovery &c., to that figure. This neighborhood is, I think, the best in the Department for a general hospital, and it would always be kept full.

3d. I recommend Clarysville, or its vicinity, as a proper place at which to locate these huts; it is high, has a pure bracing air, and is removed from the vicinity of the town. Water and fuel are abundant, and turnpike and railroad lead to it.

4th. Should it be deemed inadvisable to incur the expense of these huts, (they could be built for \$1,000 each, the whole costing less than the money value of thirty soldiers to the United States,) as the next best measure, I recommend that the sick be placed in tents at once. A camp *sanitarium* might be established at an advantageous place on the railroad. The sick would be infinitely better off in such a camp than

they are now, and a place could be readily be found where it could be placed, even at this early season. Clarysville would be too cold at present. Grafton, or its neighborhood, would answer very well. I regard it as indispensably necessary to get the sick out of the wretched establishments at Cumberland as soon as possible, and therefore I make no recommendation for their improvement, except as regards L & K. These buildings should be placed in charge of suitable persons, thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed, and orders issued fixing their capacity in accordance with the requirements of sanitary science.

5th. Additional medical aid should be at once sent to Cumberland, and Dr. ——— should be relieved.

6th. The surgeon in charge should be immediately instructed to make requisition on the Medical Purveyor, at Wheeling, for the necessary stores, bedding, &c., for the use of the sick under his care.

7th. The convalescent hospital at Clarysville should in any event be continued, but as there is a disposition to over crowd it, its capacity should be fixed by order.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obd't serv't,

WILLAM A. HAMMOND,

Assist. Surg. U. S. A.

Dr. J. LETTERMAN,

Assist. Surg., U. S. A., Medical Director.

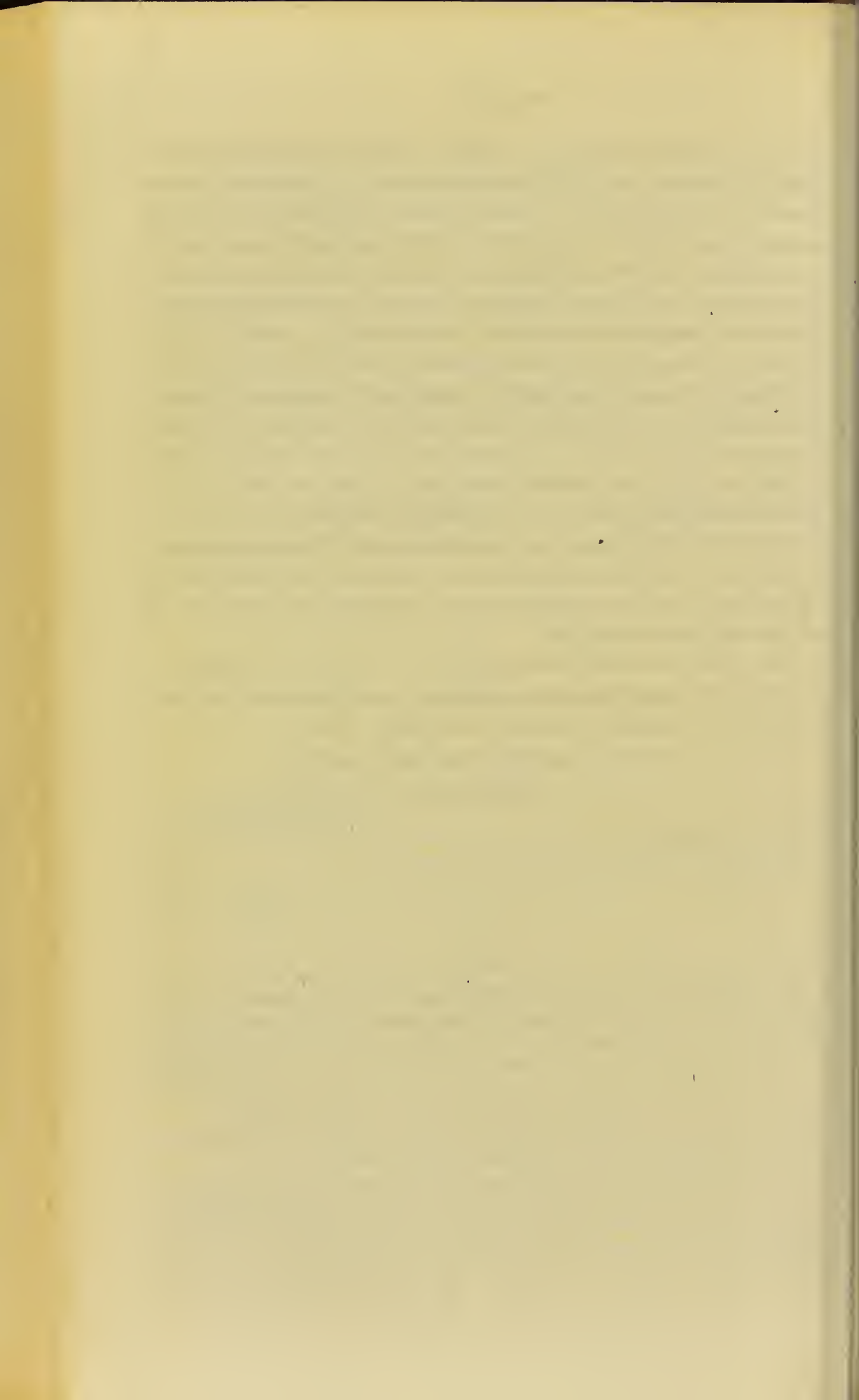
#### NOTE.

The suggestions contained in the foregoing reports have been carried out by the Medical Director, Assistant Surgeon J. Letterman, U. S. A., and Brig. Gen. Rosecrans, U. S. A., Commanding the Department, and with the happiest results.

Huts are being constructed at Cumberland, which it is believed will fulfil every sanitary indication, especially in regard to light, ventilation, and space. Each patient will have over 100 square feet and over 1,700 cubic feet of space.

An extensive camp *sanitarium* has also been planned, and will be located at an advantageous point as soon as the necessary tents are received.

The 55th Ohio Regiment has now less than the average amount of sickness. It has been moved from Grafton, proper sanitary measures were at once ordered, and the sick were taken out of the filthy houses and placed in tents. At this date (March 29) there are but sixty on the sick report, and of these forty-five are convalescent.





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 42.

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## A Visit to Fort Donelson, Tenn.

FOR THE

RELIEF OF THE WOUNDED OF FEB. 15, 1862:

A LETTER BY DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY.

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REV. H. W. BELLOWS, D. D.,

*President U. S. Sanitary Commission:*

DEAR SIR—As you have doubtless learned from my letters to the Secretary, I was in Kentucky when the country was electrified by the news of the taking of Fort Donelson. When on the point of starting for the scene of action with one of our inspectors, and such stores as I could command, I received a despatch to the effect that the Cincinnati Branch Commission had chartered a steamer, freighted it with surgeons, nurses, and hospital stores, and had already started down the river.

On the arrival at Louisville of the Allen Collier—for that was the name of the relief boat—I accepted the cordial invitation which I received, joined the expedition, and taking some twenty boxes of hospital stores, kindly placed at my disposal by Mrs. Bishop Smith, I went on board.

Mr. James A. Blake, President of the Indianapolis Branch of our Commission, and Mr. F. C. Sessions, of the Columbus Branch, also joined the party at this time.

I found on the steamer some of the most eminent surgeons and highly respected citizens of Cincinnati—a warm-hearted band of Christian men, all eager to do something toward relieving the suffering known to exist among the poor fellows who had gained for us so great a victory at such a cost. From the high character of these men, and the admirable spirit which animated them, as well as from all the circumstances attending the fitting out of the expedition, I could not but regard it as one of the most delightful of all the

many exhibitions of the patriotism and refined humanity of our people which this war has called out, and as a most gratifying proof of the vigor and value of our organization, now spread over all the loyal States.

The history of the expedition up to the time when I joined it is no less interesting and suggestive than that in which I bore part, and you will perhaps not be unwilling to hear it as it was repeated to me:

“Before hearing of the surrender of Fort Donelson, but knowing that a desperate conflict was impending there, the Secretary called a meeting of the Sanitary Commission for 9 o'clock on Monday morning. At this meeting a committee was appointed who were authorized to charter a steamer, load it with hospital stores, and engage as many surgeons and nurses as they might deem proper. While the committee was engaged in selecting these from the hundreds who tendered their services, the news came that the fort was taken. The city was at once in a blaze of enthusiasm. The citizens knowing that the Commission was about sending a steamer to the relief of the wounded, vied with each other in their efforts to help on the enterprise. The members of the Commission were accosted in the streets, or called into places of business, and checks for \$25 or \$50 thrust into their hands by men from whom much smaller donations would have been regarded as highly liberal. In two hours, almost without solicitation, \$3,000 were collected and paid into the treasury to defray the expenses of the expedition. Had more been required, it would have been as freely given.

“From the fact that all the steamers at Cincinnati had been pressed into the service of the Government for the transport of troops, it was only after many difficulties and delays that a proper one was found, and the consent of Gen. Buell to its use obtained by telegraph from Louisville.

“At 5 p. m. the steamer was secured, and at midnight she started on her way.”

Our voyage down the Ohio and up the Cumberland was without incident, but in many respects most interesting. Our company, composed mainly of men of intelligence and cultivation, harmonized by their humane and patriotic

mission, furnished the elements of most pleasant social intercourse, in which the hours passed rapidly away; and at evening the circle of earnest worshippers who gathered into the cabin to listen to the reading of the Scriptures, and to join in prayer for the wounded and dying on the battle-field, formed a scene strangely new to the traveller on our western waters, and one that will long linger in the memories of those present.

During the trip our whole force was classified in squads of surgeons and nurses, so that our work might be systematically, rapidly, and thoroughly done.

On our arrival at Fort Donelson we found ourselves surrounded by all the realities and many of the horrors of war. The batteries, the entrenchments, the white tents of our victorious army which covered the hills for miles around, the battle-field with its unburied dead, strewn with arms, clothing, and accoutrements, everywhere showing traces of the death storm by which it had been swept. All these, and a thousand other things which told each its story in the unwritten history of this desperate and all-important conflict, were looked upon with a deep and painful interest. But we had not come to gratify mere curiosity, however natural, and the wounded, who were then being brought in on litters or in ambulances, demanded and received our first thoughts and attention.

Immediately on our arrival a committee of the Commission visited the headquarters of the Commanding General and obtained passes "through all lines at will." The Committee also reported to the Medical Director, stated the object of our visit, tendered the services of surgeons and nurses, and proffered the supplies which had been brought. All these offers were accepted, and an appointment made for 3 o'clock the same afternoon, at which time duties were to be assigned us where assistance was most needed.

During the interval we had time to look around us and ascertain, by our own observations, the condition of the wounded, and nature and extent of their wants.

Our steamer was moved alongside of the "City of Memphis," on which were, at the time, two hundred and fifty



or three hundred of the wounded, while a few paces below us lay the Fanny Bullitt, on which were nearly as many more. To both of these boats, we, with some little difficulty, obtained access, and were enabled to make a cursory examination of their inmates.

We found the cabin floors thickly crowded with the wounded men, and others were constantly arriving from the various places where they had been deposited when taken from the field of battle. When received they were laid side by side in juxtaposition, part on the floor and part on mattresses. Our examination showed that the individual condition of the wounded men was deplorable. Some were just as they had been left by the fortune of war (four days before); their wounds, as yet, undressed, smeared with filth and blood, and all their wants unsupplied. Others had had their wounds dressed one, two, or three days before. Others, still, were under the surgeon's hands, receiving such care as could be given them by men overburdened by the number of their patients, worn out by excessive and long-continued labor, without an article of clothing to give to any for a change, or an extra blanket, without bandages or dressings, with but two ounces of cerate to three hundred men, with few medicines and no stimulants, and with nothing but corn meal gruel, hard bread, and bacon, to dispense as food.

As the condition of the wounded testified, and the frank admission of the surgeons proved, here was an earnest appeal for all our sympathies, all our efforts, all our stores—the very suffering and destitution, indeed, which we had pictured in our minds, and we had come so far to relieve.

At 3 o'clock the Medical Director failed to appear, nor did we see anything of him till dark. Meantime some of the party making an effort to go again into the cabin of the City of Memphis, were asked by the sentinel if they were members of the Sanitary Commission, and upon answering in the affirmative they were informed that their orders were to deny them admittance. We were therefore left to our own devices to pass the afternoon. Eager and impatient as we were to do something for the poor fellows whose wants were so pressing,

and who were now so near to us and our stores, we were rigidly excluded from them.

It will not seem strange to you that this discourteous rejection of our proffered aid grated most harshly on our feelings, and in the circumstances appeared, not only ungenerous to us and the great body of loyal citizens whom we represented, but what was of more consequence, as unkind, and even cruel to the sufferers to whom we were bearing the fruits of their sympathy and affection.

In the evening the Medical Director, with several surgeons of his staff, came on board our boat, and announced that we were to place ourselves under the direction of Dr. B., a civil surgeon from Cincinnati, who had come up with us from Smithland. This arrangement was objected to by all the surgeons of our party as disrespectful to themselves, and an unwarranted appropriation of the whole expedition by one who had no claim on its *materiel* or *personnel*. After some discussion this proposition was withdrawn, and by 9½ o'clock most of us were systematically distributed through the two boats, assuming the care of the wounded through the night, and giving the attendants the rest they so much required. Meantime several of our number had commenced opening the boxes of hospital stores, and pouring into the two hospital boats a constant stream of bedding, clothing, surgical dressings, medicines, stimulants, and food. In this way the entire night was passed.

On Friday morning, and even during the evening previous, the surgeons of the regiment encamped near, hearing of our arrival with supplies, began to visit our boat, asking for medical and hospital stores, of which they reported a general and urgent want. It is scarcely necessary to say that they were supplied with a liberal hand, greatly to their satisfaction.

Application had been made to the Medical Director to permit 75 to 100 wounded to be transferred to the Allen Collier, to be cared for by the surgeons of our party, and to be transported to Cincinnati, if possible; or, if that was not permitted, to any place which might be specified on the banks of the Ohio. On Friday the proposition was, with considerable hesitation, accepted, and after noon the removal

began. While this was being affected I took occasion to go over the battle-field and visit the camps of several regiments which had taken an active part in the fight. During my absence, as I learned on my return at evening to the steamer, Dr. H., the Medical Director, had again visited the Allen Collier, and this time, to the surprise of all, in a most unamiable mood. Irritated by the objection made the evening previous to his disposition of the surgeons and nurses, by the liberal manner in which the stores on board had been issued to meet any real want—or by some cause unknown, he forgot at once all the dignity of his official position, and the proprieties of gentlemanly intercourse. Perhaps some explanation of his conduct may be found in the report of the Cincinnati Branch Commission; but I believe to them, as to me, it remains a problem not susceptible of any solution “becoming an officer and a gentleman.”

According to the testimony of all the witnesses of the interview, it would be impossible by any description to give an adequate idea of his arrogant, insulting manner, and I will not sully my paper with the oaths with which each of his sentences was interlarded. He demanded that all stores that we had brought there for distribution should be turned over to his purveyor, and be distributed only by him; and that one of his surgeons should go on board the Allen Collier, take the supervision of the wounded, and the command of our force.

The gentlemen of the Commission, smothering all expression of their deep indignation at such treatment, and consulting only the interests of the poor fellows, some of whom might be saved from death by their intervention, made no reply to the insulting language of the Medical Director, nor opposition to his authority, but turned over to him nearly all the stores on board, and soon after my return started down the river.

Of this interview I had no knowledge until we were under weigh. Had I been present, and the facts been such as were reported me, I should have felt constrained to refer this whole matter to the general commanding the department.

It is only just to state, that with this exception we were most kindly and cordially received and treated by all the surgeons whom we met at Fort Donelson.



The eighty-one wounded men who were taken on board the Allen Collier were sadly in want of immediate surgical attendance, which was thoroughly and systematically given them. Each was placed in a clean and comfortable bed; their soiled and bloody clothing removed; they were washed with warm water throughout, including their feet; new and clean underclothing, with socks, and, when needed, slippers were furnished to all; food, nourishing and palatable, and delicacies to which they had long been strangers, were supplied to them. In short, in all things they were nursed and served as though they had been our brothers and sons.

These men, with the exception of one who died of his wounds on the way, were transported safely to Cincinnati, where they were transferred to the hospitals in charge of Dr. Moore, in whose kind care, and under the watchful eye of the Sanitary Commission, they will want nothing.

I have thus presented a brief and imperfect history of *one* of the parties organized for the relief of the wounded at Fort Donelson; but the history of this expedition, however suggestive it may be, can give you but a very inadequate idea of the breadth and depth of enthusiasm and sympathy which the siege and conquest of Fort Donelson called out in all parts of the Western States, and comes far short of expressing the promptness and energy with which measures were taken by State officers, city authorities, our various Branch Commissions and auxiliaries, societies and individuals, for the transmission of succor to the sufferers.

From Ohio, beside the Cincinnati expedition, accompanied by Mr. Sessions, of the Columbus Branch and myself, Dr. Weber, the Surgeon General started at once, and did good service in the case of the wounded at Cairo and Paducah. From the Cleveland Soldiers' Aid Society also 100 boxes of hospital stores were shipped within twenty-four hours after the reception of the telegraphic requisitions of Dr. Weber and myself.

From Indiana, Mr. Blake, President of the Indianapolis Branch Commission, accompanied us, as I have stated; and Governor Morton went himself with a number of surgeons and nurses to Cairo and thence to the Fort.

Governor Yates, of Illinois, was equally prompt in hastening to the assistance of the Illinois troops, who bore so important and gallant a part in the contest; and the Chicago Branch Commission, on this occasion, exhibited the energy and efficiency that might have been expected from those who had for months, almost alone, supplied all needed extraneous aid to the large force stationed in the vicinity of Cairo. Dr. Aigner I found at the Fort on my arrival, acting for the Commission with his usual energy and discretion. Dr. Douglass came up a few hours later, and we left both these gentlemen there when we started on our return.

I cannot conclude my letter without referring to the heroism displayed by our soldiers; their bravery in the field; their fortitude when wounded. Of the former, you have already had some description, and doubtless shared the thrill of pleasure and admiration which ran through the land when it was known that our young soldiers had not only exhibited all the steadiness of veterans, but by their gallantry had given the lie to southern boastings, and had gained for themselves an honorable place among the heroes of history. Of the latter, nothing has been said; but, to my mind, the examples of patient and even cheerful endurance of suffering, which I saw among the wounded, were scarcely less impressive than the scenes of the battle-field, to which I have alluded. Among several hundreds whose injuries were, for the most part, serious, I scarcely heard a groan, or even a sigh. All were cheerful, and so elated with their success that their own fate seemed a matter of comparative indifference. In more than one instance, in view of impending death, the failing powers were rallied to give final expression to sentiments of the loftiest patriotism. I never before fully realized "how sweet and honorable a thing it might be to die for one's country."

Yours, very respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Assoc. Secretary.*

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 43.

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NEW YORK AGENCY OF THE U. S. SANITARY }  
COMMISSION, 498 BROADWAY, }  
July 21st, 1862. }

*To the President of the United States :*

Sir,—Three hundred thousand raw recruits are about to be called into the field. It is impossible for the U. S. Sanitary Commission to contemplate this momentous fact without a profound feeling of its obligation to lend Government whatever aid and counsel its peculiar experience may enable it to offer as to the safest and best method of getting these men into the field and keeping them there in the most serviceable condition and with the highest attainable economy of life and health. After studying for fifteen months the sanitary interests of our great army, we have arrived at definite conclusions as to measures necessary to protect these new levies against certain of the dangers that threaten them, and it is our plain duty, as a "Commission of inquiry and advice in regard to the Sanitary interests of the United States Forces," to submit these conclusions, most respectfully, to the consideration of yourself, their Commander-in-Chief.

The careless and superficial medical inspection of recruits made at least twenty-five per cent. of the volunteer army raised last year, not only utterly useless, but a positive encumbrance and embarrassment, filling our Hospitals with invalids and the whole country with exaggerated notions of the dangers of war that now seriously retard the recruiting of the new levies we



so urgently need. The wise and humane regulations of the United States Army that require a minute and searching investigation of the physical condition of every recruit, were during the spring and summer of 1861 criminally disregarded by Inspecting Officers. In twenty-nine per cent. of the regiments mustered into service during that period there had been no pretence even of a thorough inspection. Few regiments have thus far taken the field that did not include among their rank and file many boys of from fourteen to sixteen,—men with hernia, varicose veins, consumption, and other diseases, wholly unfitting them for duty, and which could not have escaped the eye of a competent Medical Officer—and others with constitutions broken by intemperance or disease, or long past the age of military service. Each of these men cost the nation a certain amount of money, amounting in the aggregate to millions of dollars. Not one of them was able, however well disposed, to endure a week's hardship or render the nation a dollar's worth of effective service in the field. Some regiments left ten per cent. of their men in hospitals on the road, before they reached the seat of war. No national crisis can excuse the recruiting of such material. It increases for a time the strength of the army on paper, but diminishes its actual efficiency. It is a mere source of weakness, demoralization, and wasteful expense, and of manifold mischief to the army and to the National cause. The frequent spectacle of immature youth and men of diseased or enfeebled constitutions returning to their homes shattered and broken down after a month of camp-life destructive to themselves and useless to the country, has depressed the military spirit and confidence of the People. How can we escape a repetition of this manifest evil except by a more vigilant and thorough inspection of our new levies? And how can such inspection be secured?

We respectfully submit that no new recruits should be ac

cepted until they have been examined by Medical Officers of the United States Army, entirely without personal interest in the filling up of any regiment. And these medical men should have had some experience in the hardships and exposures of military life. No one, in short, should be allowed to serve as a Medical Inspector of recruits, who has not passed a regular Army Board named by the Surgeon-General himself, and convened at some one of the great centres of medical science.

A large percentage of the disease and weakness of our armies up to this time, (in other words the waste of many millions of our national resources,) has been due to the inexperience of Medical and Military Officers alike, as to the peculiar dangers and exposures that surround the soldier in camp and on the march, and which render the money the nation has expended in putting him into the field, a far more precarious investment than it would be, were he kept under strict subjection to Sanitary Laws. The liability of soldiers to disease should be far less than it is. It would be so were they required to observe the laws of health. They and their officers, and the People and the Government, have thus far too generally overlooked those laws. But the last twelve months have taught the Army and the People the immense importance of Sanitary science in war. Our school has been costly, but it has already taught us much. For the last three months thousands and thousands of wan and wasted forms brought North by railroad, and on Hospital transports, stricken by no rebel bullet, but by far deadlier enemies of the Nation—malarial fever and camp-dysentery—have been impressing on the People the lesson the Sanitary Commission has been endeavoring to teach ever since the war began, viz., that our soldiers were in far greater danger from disease than from the violence

of their enemies—and that we lose ten men uselessly by preventable disease, for every man destroyed by the enemy.

We have been learning rapidly during the past year. If we have learned anything, it has been that it was a mistake to keep the Regular Army and the Volunteer Army separate. Had the Regulars been from the first intermingled with the Volunteers, they would have leavened the whole lump with their experience of camp-police, discipline, subordination, and the Sanitary conditions of military life. We should have no Bull Run panic to blush for. Our little Regular Army diffused among the Volunteers of last year, would within three months have brought them up to its own standard of discipline and efficiency.

As it is, the greatest efforts have been required to inspire officers and men with a sense of the nature and importance of sanitary laws, and with the practical application of hygienic principles to their tents, their camps, their persons, and their habits and food. In this work, the Sanitary Commission through its professional experts, has labored methodically, and with marked success. But it cannot contemplate the needless renewal of its painful experience, without warning Government that the loss of life by debility, disease, and immaturity—sometimes that by our bloodiest battles—is wholly unnecessary; that of every ten men lost by the army during the past year, nine have been needlessly wasted; that by proper medical inspection of recruits, the material of disease can be reduced to the lowest possible sum; and then, by a proper distribution of raw recruits among the regiments already formed, and of new officers among existing regiments, we may at once communicate all that is most important in the sanitary experience of our veteran army to the new levy of 300,000 men and thus save them from seventy-five per cent. of the mortality to which they will otherwise be inevitably exposed.



From a sanitary point of view, the urgency of this policy is clear. *If all the 300,000 men now to be recruited, were recruited without a single new regiment being formed, it would save the country, sooner or later, thousands of lives, and millions of dollars.* We should get a far better class of men. They would have a thorough medical inspection, and every man would soon cease to be a raw recruit when absorbed into a veteran regiment. Thus all our year's costly experience would be saved, and the perils of ignorance, inexperience, and crudity be avoided.

This process, too, is that by which our present army can be most rapidly reinforced, since the men raised might be sent to the field as fast as they were collected, and digested into the body of the army, day by day, without delay, and without sensibly diluting its discipline. Whereas, raised by regiments, as at present, with officers and men equally raw, they must be kept in camps of instruction till the pressing want of their services has gone by, or the opportunity of their usefulness is lost.

If it be said that the stimulus to recruiting will be taken away if the aspirations of new officers are repressed, we do not hesitate to meet that alternative by saying, that it would meet the wants of the country, and the views of an enlightened public sentiment better, to draft the whole 300,000 men, with a distinct understanding that they were to fill out the skeleton regiments to which the army of veterans has become reduced, than to have them raised, without drafting, by a volunteer process to which raw officers and unskilled medical men would communicate their own ignorance and inadequacy.

Although it is purely on sanitary grounds that we urge this plea, it would be easy to show that military and political wisdom are in exact harmony with sanitary requirements in favoring such a plan. But we do not venture beyond our own

sphere to urge considerations of which others are so much better judges.

If Government will call on the Medical Department of the Army for its official judgment on this grave and urgent question, we feel no doubt that these views will be abundantly confirmed, and more forcibly argued.

We have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servants,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M.D.

C. R. AGNEW, M.D.,

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M.D.,

FREDK. LAW OLMSTED,

GEO. T. STRONG,

Exec. Committee of the

U. S. Sanitary Commission.

[NOTE.]

The following is an extract from a Report to the Sanitary Commission, by its actuary, Mr. E. B. ELLIOTT, which is now in press:

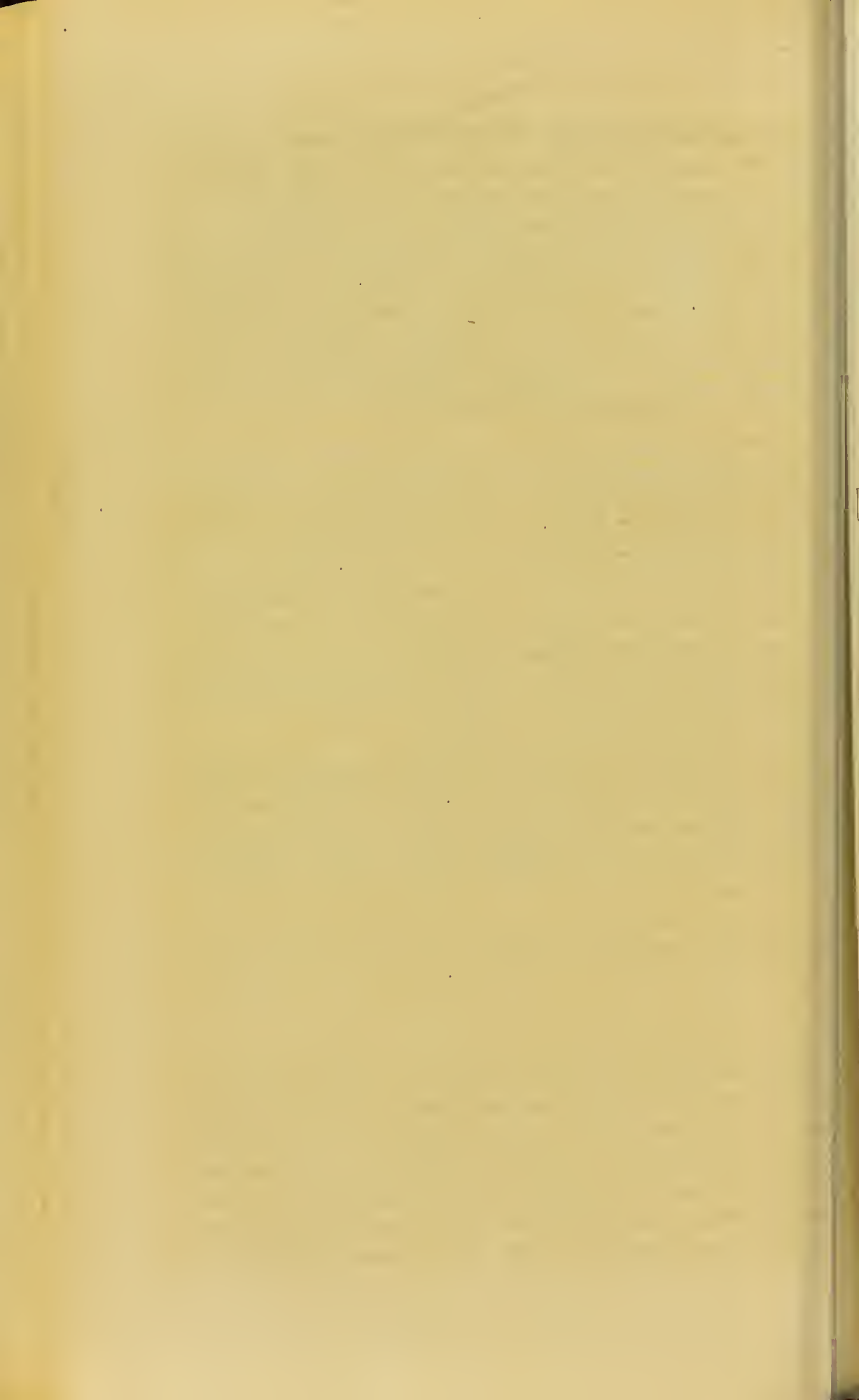
"Since one hundred and four (104.4) out of every thousand men (officers and privates together) in the entire army, is the constant proportion sick, it follows, that, to secure in the field a constant force of five hundred thousand (500,000) *effective* (or healthy and able) men, the nation must constantly maintain, in hospitals or elsewhere, an additional force of five hundred and eighty-four thousand (584,000) sick men, making the entire force maintain both sick and effective, to consist of five hundred and fifty-eight thousand (558,000) men; four per cent., or 22,000 of this entire force

ould be commissioned officers, and ninety-six per cent., or 536,000 enlisted men. And since to supply continuous losses in the ranks of the enlisted men, other than losses from expiration of service, requires recruits at the annual rate of 229 per 1,000 enlisted men, it follows, that to keep the ranks of these 536,000 enlisted men constantly full, will require annually 123,000 recruits; 29,000 of these recruits being demanded to supply the annual loss occasioned by death; 54,000, the loss arising from discharged from service, mainly from disability; 27,000 for excess of desertions over returns of deserters to duty; 7,000 missing in action, not subsequently otherwise accounted for, and 6,000, the loss from other causes.

"To repeat—assuming the returns of the period from the 1st of June, 1861, to the 1st of March, 1862, as the basis of calculation, it follows, that to secure in the field a constant force of 500,000 effective men, the nation must not only maintain 58,000 sick men, but it must also recruit the ranks of the enlisted portion of these forces with new material, at the rate of 123,000 per annum, so long as the war shall last; a rate somewhat exceeding 10,000 recruits per month. Of these 123,000 annual recruits, 29,000 are to supply losses by death and discharges from service, (exclusive of discharges for expiration of its term); 34,000 for desertions and missing in action, (not returned or otherwise accounted for); and 6,000 to supply other losses specified and unspecified.

"The five hundred thousand (500,000) effective men are equivalent in number to the number of men in 573 regiments of the average numerical strength, (that is 872 men each); and the 58,000 sick equivalent to 67 regiments of average numerical strength; the entire force of 558,000 men to be maintained being equivalent to 640 regiments of average strength."





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 44.

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## REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS

OF THE

## CINCINNATI BRANCH

OF THE

## UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,

To March 1, 1862.

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CINCINNATI, March 1, 1862.

DR. JOHN S. NEWBERRY,

*Western Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission:*

DEAR SIR—The members of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission desire to submit for your consideration, a report of their proceedings to the 28th day of February inclusive.

Appointments were made at Washington of members here as early as May, June, and July, 1861, but no notice was given to the gentlemen selected thus to co-operate with the Sanitary Commission until November last, when you visited this city.

Our first meeting was held at the residence of Dr. W. H. Mussey, November 27, 1861, and steps were then taken to complete a working organization and system, to obtain a depot and office, to organize a Central Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society for this city and vicinity, to issue a circular to the people of Southern Ohio and Indiana and Northern Kentucky, and to inspect and supply the wants of the camps and hospitals in and near Cincinnati. A small quantity of supplies

which had been received by Dr. Mussey, in consequence of the reference to him in the Sanitary Commission's address to the Loyal Women of America, was put into our hands.

Within a few days, a Central Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society was established, composed of delegates from each of twenty-four societies in this city and county. This society dates from a public meeting of ladies, (members of sewing circles and others interested,) called by a committee from our number on December 6th, and completed an efficient organization on the 18th, and received its first supplies on the 24th of the same month. This society has held weekly meetings, increasing in interest, usefulness and numbers, until now it is composed of delegates from forty working societies, and through these constituent members manufactures weekly into hospital garments, raw material to the amount of from three to five hundred dollars. Its funds have been in part supplied by us, and in part are the proceeds of a most successful public reading, generously given by Mr. James R. Murdoch of a poem, "The Wild Wagoner of the Alleghenies," written by Mr. T. Buchanan Read, and for the first time laid before the public on this occasion. Other generous donors have also contributed in various ways to the treasury of this Society. It proves a patriotic and useful auxiliary, providing large quantities of supplies of all kinds, which are given to us to distribute as the necessities of the army require.

On the 13th of December we issued an edition of 5,000 copies of a circular to the public, stating in detail the needs of the army, and the plans proposed whereby the liberal and patriotic, especially among the women of our country, might co-operate with the Government. On the 1st day of February, we issued another edition of 5,000 copies of the same circular, making such changes as experience had proved advisable. And again, on the 13th of February, we made another appeal to the public by issuing an address, of which we published 5,000 copies, and which was copied into, and thus largely circulated by, the newspapers of the city. We are especially under obligations to the publishers of the Western Christian Advocate, who gave us the benefit of their circulation among



25,000 subscribers, by printing in full our first circular. You have been furnished with these documents, from which you will perceive that in preparing our statement of the wants of the army, and how to organize for its relief, we took advantage of the experience of other and older auxiliaries of your Commission.

On the 19th of December, through the generosity of the Board of Trustees and Visitors of Schools of this city and of the Volunteer Aid Committee, (an organization under which large quantities of supplies were collected and distributed among the regiments from this city and vicinity in the autumn before our first meeting,) we were provided with an office and depot in the first story of the Mechanics' Institute, corner of Vine and Sixth streets, a central location for our meetings and those of the Ladies' Society, with ample and convenient accommodations for storing, packing, and shipping. Our regular meetings are held there every Thursday evening, and those of the Ladies every Tuesday forenoon. Our store-keeper, Mr. John B. Heich, is in constant attendance, and a committee for the week, of three of our number, spend a portion of each day in receiving, packing, and forwarding supplies. Our business has now so largely increased that we are obliged to have the entire time, and therefore pay, for the service of an assistant to Mr. Heich, as well as two porters. Our own services have been, of course, wholly gratuitous, except in the case of the two Inspectors hereafter alluded to, who are paid a small compensation.

Immediately after our organization, we sent two of our members, (Dr. Mead and E. Y. Robbins,) clothing them for the time with the authority of Inspectors, to examine the several camps at Hamilton, Xenia, Lockland, and Camp Dennison, in Ohio, and near Newport, in Kentucky, and the hospitals in this city, and to supply all wants. Their reports are on file, and subject to your examination. Since that time we have repeatedly had the pleasure of seeing your Inspectors, Doctors Read and Prentice, at our rooms, and of meeting their requisitions. Both our Secretaries and several other members have visited and distributed supplies to the

hospitals in Louisville, Bacon Creek, and Munfordville. We have also forwarded supplies, in considerable quantities, to Garfield's brigade on the Sandy, to several points in Western Virginia, and to the Society called Uncle Sam's Daughters, for the use of sick soldiers at Palmyra, Missouri. One of our members, Dr. W. H. Mussey, now Medical Director of Gen. Wood's division of the army under General Buell, left this city for service in the field a few days after our first meeting, and has kept us constantly advised of the wants of the army within his sphere of observation, and we have met several requisitions from him.

After the battle of Mill Spring, we desired to do something for the sufferers at Somerset, and telegraphed to the Medical Director of General Thomas' division to know what was most wanted. His reply called for a class of supplies with which we are not furnished by the public, viz.: spoons, knives and forks, plates, spit-pans, chamber-pans, etc. We should have purchased a supply and forwarded them to him, but the condition of the roads prevented our procuring transportation. We were glad to hear afterwards that through the interposition of Dr. Murray, Medical Director on Gen. Buell's staff, Dr. Read, your indefatigable Inspector, was enabled to get through, in a Government train, to Somerset, with five cases of your supplies, and thereby to aid in relieving much suffering.

Before this, we had purchased and sent to Dr. Mussey, at Nelson's Furnace, in Kentucky, a considerable invoice of goods of the same general character. It should be added, also, that our committee found a similar want at Fort Donelson; and purchased at Evansville and sent to the Fort, a quantity of hardware and queensware, of which special mention must be made of candlesticks, for there was not one on the floating hospitals, steamers City of Memphis and Fanny McBurnie, at the Fort.

On Sunday, the 16th of February, news of the severe fighting at Fort Donelson reached Cincinnati. A number of liberal citizens at once set on foot a movement to raise money for the charter of a steamer to go with nurses and supplies to the relief of the sick and wounded. During that day and the

next, \$2,795 were subscribed and put into our hands for that purpose. It was found, however, that every steamboat in port was chartered by the Government. We at once made known our wishes by telegraph to General Buell at Louisville, and he promptly authorized the Quartermaster here to transfer to us, upon the same terms the Government had held it, the charter of the Allen Collier, a small boat, upon which, about midnight of February 17, several members of our body, to wit, Dr. David Judkins, as chief of the corps of medical men and nurses, and Messrs. Eli C. Baldwin, Henry Pearce, and C. F. Wilstach, Committee in charge of the property, with a corps of ten volunteer surgeons and thirty-six nurses, from among our best citizens, and a large stock of supplies and medicines, embarked for Fort Donelson. Mr. B. P. Baker was sent in advance to Louisville, where he procured the necessary permits to go up the Cumberland, from General Buell, and thus avoided all delay on that account. As you joined this expedition in person, at Louisville, and made the trip to the Fort, as far as Evansville, on the return, it is deemed unnecessary to enter into a detailed statement of its history. Suffice it to say, that with one marked exception, our Committee met with nothing but ample facilities and the kindest treatment from the officers they met, and it is believed that notwithstanding many discouragements, and the bad conduct of one prominent medical officer, they were enabled to prosecute their errand of mercy successfully, and to relieve much distress. They found a sad and very disgraceful condition of affairs at the Fort, so far as relates to medical and other supplies. There was great want of the ordinary medicines, which might and should have been provided by the proper authorities. They were called upon for chloroform by the acting medical director, and for chloroform and morphia by regimental surgeons, who informed them that neither article was there. They were shown by the surgeon of the floating hospital, Fanny Bullitt, with three hundred wounded in his charge, his stock of cerate, amounting to less than two ounces. There was no meat with which to make soup; no wood to cook it with when supplied by our Committee; no



bread, except hard bread; not a spoon or candlestick, on the floating hospital. The want of candlesticks nearly led to the loss of the City of Memphis by fire.

Great allowance may be required for the conduct of a man who, for days and nights, without rest, had been trying to serve the brave men wounded in that battle; but it is difficult to make any for the medical chiefs who failed to take the proper forethought to provide a sufficient stock of such articles as our Committee found wanting. Our whole people knew that a battle would be fought at Donelson, and at this stage of the war there can be no excuse for such deficiencies. The country has provided the men and the money, and a neglect now to furnish such articles as the army regulations require cannot be overlooked.

The Allen Collier, bearing in addition to those already named, Mr. F. C. Sessions, of the Columbus, and Mr. James Blake, of the Indianapolis branch Commission, with a further stock of supplies from the latter city, put on board at Louisville, and Dr. G. C. Blackman, of this city, and a few others, who embarked at Smithland, reached Donelson on Thursday, February 20. The next day, eighty-one of the sick and wounded were put on board, and she started on her return trip. A large portion of the stores and supplies were distributed at the Fort, and the surgeons and nurses devoted themselves while there with kind and unremitting care to those for whose benefit they went. The gratitude of the soldier was freely expressed, and it is hoped that this expedition not only relieved suffering, but by giving confidence to the army that the people were alive to their wants, did something to strengthen the hands of the Government in this great crisis.

During the day before the departure of the Allen Collier, we had telegraphed to Gen. Halleck, expressing the desire of the people of Cincinnati to take charge of some of the sufferers at Fort Donelson. The next morning a reply was received, that five hundred sick and wounded would be sent, and requiring us to treat friend and foe with equal humanity, which, without that suggestion, would have been done.—

Preparations were at once made by us, under the direction of Dr. John Moore, of the regular army, Post Surgeon at this point. Anticipating possibilities, a committee had been appointed as early as January, who had examined every building in the city at all adapted to hospital purposes, which could be had. A five-story building, conveniently located on Fourth street, between Main and Sycamore, which promised greater advantages in many respects than any other house that could be got, was rented and fitted up. It was supposed that this hospital, with the two other military hospitals previously established by the Government, and such accommodations as could be had in the St. John's and Commercial Hospitals, (the former a private hospital under the control of the Sisters of Charity, and the latter a public institution owned by the city,) would be sufficient. At the date of this report, a large number of sick and wounded have been received at these hospitals, and we shall be called upon, in all probability, in a few days, to open another hospital.

In the organization of the Fourth Street Hospital, and in the reception of the sick and wounded, have been presented occasions, which large numbers of the people have eagerly embraced, to render substantial aid to the brave soldiers who have suffered disease or wounds in their country's cause. And it is due to Dr. Moore, under whose direction we have acted in this part of the service, to say, that we have found him not only accomplished in his profession, but also a clear-headed and efficient man of business. It was at first supposed that the cost of establishing this new hospital would have to be paid out of our treasury, and we were ready to have honored the draft, but the authority given by the Government to Dr. Moore has proved ample so far as most of the expenses are concerned. This is only alluded to, because it is proper that our views and proposed course should be fully made known to those whose agents we are—a most generous people, who have been and are ready to sustain any enterprise that promises aid to the suffering, or support to the Government.

We submit herewith a statement, carefully prepared by Mr. Heich, of the receipt and distribution of supplies, including articles purchased. Our receipts and disbursements have constantly increased, and we confidently anticipate that the next month's business will more than equal all we have done up to this time. The names of the donors have been published weekly. They reside mostly in Southern Ohio and Indiana. From Kentucky, Northern Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, we have also been in receipt of donations. Our cash receipts to the 28th February, inclusive, have been:—

	\$7,199 08
Expenses to the same date.....	\$4,259 80
Cash on hand.....	2,939 28
	<hr/>
	\$7,199 08

With the exception of \$250, contributed by seven gentlemen of Zanesville, the receipts have been mainly donations by citizens of Cincinnati. The names of the donors have been from time to time published in the Cincinnati papers. Without now entering into a detailed statement of the items of expenditure, we may say in general, that \$1,500 paid for the hire of the Allen Collier; \$500 contributed to the Commission at Washington in consideration of its large expenditure in the West; \$200 paid for service of Inspectors; nearly \$1,500, paid at different dates, for goods to be manufactured into hospital clothing; and over \$400 paid for medicines, wine, slippers, queensware, and other necessary articles not contributed by the public, or not in sufficient quantities, constitute the leading items of our disbursements. Among our principal benefactors have been the Express and Railroad Companies, and lines of transportation. They have carried our members and agents, and transported donations to, and supplies from us, without charge, saving us hundreds of dollars. At the same time, they have been most bountiful in their supply of passes for furloughed wounded soldiers to their homes.



Although the organization of our board was deferred until November, it must not be supposed that the citizens of Cincinnati have looked idly upon the great struggle of the country for national existence and the integrity of its territory and institutions. Soon after the war began, Dr. W. H. Mussey procured from the Secretary of the Treasury, the use of the U. S. Marine Hospital in this city, a building erected a few years since for the use of western boatmen, and organized a Board of ladies and gentlemen for its management. The Hospital was unfurnished, having never been occupied, and was in some respects out of order. The donations of our citizens enabled the Board of Managers to furnish the Hospital, and open it for the reception of sick and wounded soldiers, in the month of May. In this hospital, were rendered the gratuitous services, not only of Dr. Mussey and his associates in the Board of Managers, but of a large number of benevolent men and women, as nurses and otherwise, until August, when the success of the enterprise induced the authorities to adopt the hospital as a regular Government hospital, and it was taken charge of by the medical director of this department. Upon surrendering its care, a sale was made by the managers, of the furniture, &c, to the Government. The fund thus obtained has since been expended in part in paying the expenses of furloughed wounded and disabled soldiers, in proper cases, to their homes, and in part by Dr. Mussey, in providing for the wants of the sick in his division of the army of Kentucky.

During the summer and autumn, the complaints which reached our city from the camps in Western Virginia, led to an active effort to supply the wants of the ten thousand volunteers who had gone from homes in Cincinnati and vicinity. The Volunteer Aid Committee, before referred to, were put in possession of a very large stock of supplies of all kinds, and of money; and two of their members, Messrs. C. F. Wilstach and Eli C. Baldwin, visited the various camps on the Kanawha, at Cheat Mountain and Romney, where a large number of Ohio troops were then stationed. This

Committee is still in active operation; it has a large but diminishing stock; is working in perfect harmony with us; has relieved much suffering, and no doubt saved many lives. Several of the active members of the Board of Managers of the Military Hospital, and the Volunteer Aid Committee, are members of our Commission, and thus bring to our enterprise the experience gained in their earlier service.

In addition to these organized efforts to relieve the sick and wounded, and to prevent suffering, there has been much individual labor, time and money spent in this vicinity, in the same cause. The troops at Camp Dennison, and the sick in the several hospitals in Cincinnati, have received large quantities of supplies from individual donors, and much pains-taking labor has been gratuitously rendered, in which the Sisters of Charity, among others, have been active, to avert and to relieve distress. When the ladies were called together for the purpose of organizing their Central Society, and systematizing their labors, it was found that twenty sewing circles were meeting weekly in this city and vicinity, contributing great but disconnected efforts to the relief of the army. The importance of organization and system, is shown by the fact that since the establishment of that Society, this number has doubled within the limits of this county alone. Surely if the loyal States do not achieve success in this war, it will not be the fault of the people.

In making this report, we have entered into detail, which we trust will not be found tedious, in the hope that the experience of Cincinnati may be of use in the wiser ordering of the zeal and patriotism of other portions of the country.

Respectfully,

R. W. BURNET,  
*President.*

MEMBERS OF THE CINCINNATI BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES  
SANITARY COMMISSION.

R. W. BURNET, *President.*

GEO. HOADLEY, *Vice President.*

B. P. BAKER, *Recording Secretary.*

CHAS. R. FOSDICK, *Corresponding Secretary.*

HENRY PEARCE, *Treasurer.*

Larz Anderson,	Samuel L'Hommedieu, M. D.,
A. Aub,	Edward Mead, M. D.,
Micajah Bailey,	George Mendenhall, M. D.
Eli C. Baldwin,	O. M. Mitchell,
Joshua H. Bates,	W. H. Mussey, M. D.
S. J. Broadwell,	Thomas G. Odiorne,
E. S. Brooks,	Mark E. Reeves,
A. G. Burt,	E. Y. Robbins,
Charles E. Cist,	W. W. Scarborough,
C. G. Comegys, M. D.	Thomas C. Shipley,
Rev. E. T. Collins.	George K. Shoenberger,
John Davis, M. D.	Rev. W. A. Snively,
F. C. Griggs,	J. B. Stallo,
Robert Hosea,	Bellamy Storer,
James M. Johnston,	Rev. M. L. P. Thompson,
David Judkins, M. D.	Charles F. Wilstach,

(All of Cincinnati.)

Also—James McDaniel, J. D. Phillips, R. W. Steele,  
(Of Dayton.)



# Receipts and Shipment of the Cincinnati Branch W. S. Sanitary Commission, From December 13th, 1861, to February 28th, 1862.

ARTICLES.	Total Recpts.	Tot'l Shipm'ts.	Bal. on hand.	ARTICLES.	Total Rec'pts.	Tot'l Shipm'ts.	Bal. on hand.
Comforts .....	2,021	1,551	470	<i>Brought Forward</i> .....	36,277	26,961	9,316
Blankets.....	1,094	871	223	Barley.....	10	0	10
Pillows .....	1,917	1,268	649	Tumblers.....	144	144	0
Sheets.....	2,407	1,454	953	Spoons.....	402	372	30
Socks.....	4,444	4,170	274	Cloves.....	12	12	0
Drawers.....	2,122	1,938	184	Tea.....	1	1	0
Shirts .....	4,728	4,086	642	Soap.....	1	1	0
Pillow Cases.....	4,589	3,158	1,431	Crackers.....	1	1	0
Mittens .....	1,793	1,734	59	Boots.....	6	6	0
Bed Ticks.....	1,999	1,277	722	Sugar.....	1	1	0
Towels.....	2,762	1,654	1,108	Vests.....	2	2	0
Cushions .....	750	475	275	Cups and Saucers.....	216	216	0
Slippers.....	677	548	129	Urinals.....	24	24	0
Fruits.....	2,073	1,176	897	Bed Pans.....	36	36	0
Dressing Gowns.....	264	195	69	Bowls .....	144	144	0
Handkerchiefs .....	1,827	1,031	796	Plates.....	144	144	0
Bed Gowns.....	220	82	138	Pitchers.....	36	36	0
Cravats .....	3	3	0	Wines .....	370	292	78
Brushes.....	9	9	0	Pants.....	44	27	17
Napkins .....	117	1	116	Coats.....	42	39	3
Neckties .....	8	3	5	Bedsteads .....	12	0	12
Housewives.....	193	86	107	Small Bags.....	128	0	128
Combs .....	16	16	0	Knives and Forks.....	72	72	0
Eyeshades.....	149	90	59	Chambers .....	36	36	0
Caps.....	85	85	0	Pin Cushions.....	886	226	660
Sago.....	10	0	10	Tin Cups.....	12	0	12
Totals.....	36,277	26,961	9,316	Totals.....	39,059	28,793	10,266

The above statement does not include Bandages, Lint, Old Linen, Chickens, Butter, Eggs, Fish, Meats, small Sundries, Pencils, Envelopes, Paper, Pens, and Holders, and a large amount of Miscellaneous Articles, too numerous in their variety to specify or enumerate in detail, of which a very considerable amount have been received and distributed.

JOHN B. HEICH, Storekeeper, Cin. Branch W. S. San. Com.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 44<sup>a</sup>.

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NEW YORK AGENCY OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,  
498 Broadway, July 4th, 1862.

*To all Loyal Citizens of the United States:*

The Executive Committee of the United States Sanitary Commission, acting under authority from the National Government, is once more compelled to appeal to the People on behalf of the sick and wounded of the people's armies, east and west. For their relief it asks money and supplies—at once, and in abundance.

The necessity is too urgent to admit of any elaborate statement of its nature and extent, or of the work the Commission is doing. Some information on both points will be obtained from letters and papers herewith laid before the public. They have been taken almost at random, for there is not time even to look through the letters and reports in the hands of the Executive Committee. It is sufficient to add, that high officers, at many points, have repeatedly acknowledged the service rendered by the Commission, (or rather by the People, of whom the Commission is an almoner,) to their respective commands, as of the highest value and importance.

From May 1st to July 1st, the commission has expended \$37,585.72. About nine-tenths of this sum has been laid out in the purchase of hospital stores and appliances for the relief of the sick and wounded at every important military station, and in the equipment of the flotilla of steamers and sailing vessels now in the service of the Commission as Hospital Transports. Its treasury is now nearly exhausted, at the very moment when the army most needs its aid, and when, if it had an hundred thousand dollars at its command, it would still be far too weak for the urgent work before it, and would still be obliged to see hundreds perishing for want of its aid, in the Army of the Potomac alone.

Thousands of brave men are now lying without sufficient shelter, food, or attendance, in the camps and depots on James River. Very many of them are destined to perish who could have been preserved by a blanket, a suit of hospital clothing, and a few days' allowance of proper diet and stimulants instead of their ordinary rations. The Commission has saved hundreds, if not thousands of men since this campaign began, by supplying these inexpensive wants. A very few dollars provides what can save a soldier's life, worth in mere money value hundreds of dollars to the army and to the community. At this time, of all others, the country cannot afford to waste the lives of men trained by a year's experience, and made veterans by the terrible week of continuous battle through which they have just triumphantly passed.

The Transport service of the Commission is also rendering indispensable aid to the country in bringing north men who would have perished if left in the malarious hospitals of Virginia, but who are enabled, after a short sojourn in a healthy northern climate, to rejoin their regiments.\* By thorough system, complete ventilation, attention to all sanitary conditions, and a liberal supply of comforts and appliances, which Government does not yet provide, it is believed that these "floating hospitals" have been made superior to those heretofore employed in the service of any country.

This is but a part of the work on which the Commission is engaged. But it is, at this moment, by far the most pressing. Its magnitude is appalling, in view of the multitude of those to whom the question whether help from the people shall reach them to-day or to-morrow is a question of life or death—and in view, also, of the moral certainty that a few days will increase that number by thousands. For the sake of this work, the Commission has thought it right to contract its other operations for the present, and concentrate its resources mainly on the relief of the sick and wounded on the Peninsula.

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\* More than 10,000 sick and wounded men have thus been transported to the North by the Commission, with special attention to their care and comfort, up to this date.



It may be said that Government should do all this without help from private charity. Were this true, the default of Government would not excuse us in leaving our soldiers to perish without an effort to save them. But it is only partially true. While active operations are in progress, and especially at the close of great battles, the prompt and thorough relief and treatment of the sick and wounded requires an amount of force, in men, material and transportation, which no Government has heretofore been able to keep permanently attached to its medical department. At such times volunteer aid from without is indispensable to prevent the most fearful suffering, and waste of life, however faithful and untiring the Medical Staff may be. Such aid must be regularly organized, in order to be economical and efficient, and the Commission, with its large corps of officers and agents on the ground, experienced in their duties, and in confidential communication with the military authorities, seems the best organization through which the sympathy and affection of the people can reach and relieve the people's army.

It should be added, that the improvements lately made in the organization of the Medical Bureau, and the exertions of its able and energetic head, Surgeon-General Hammond, will, in all probability, soon render a large and costly portion of the work originally undertaken by the Commission (that of Sanitary inspection) superfluous.

Contributions in money are earnestly solicited. They may be addressed to—

GEORGE T. STRONG, Treasurer of the Commission, 68 Wall Street, New York.

THOMAS H. FAILE, Junr., Superintendent of N. Y. Agency, 498 Broadway.

HORACE BINNEY, Jr., 227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

Dr. S. G. HOWE, Boston.

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, Secretary, &c., 244 F Street Washington.

Hon. MARK SKINNER, Chicago.

Dr. J. S. NEWBERRY, Cleveland.

Hon. GEO. HOADLEY, Cincinnati.

For the kind of supplies required, reference is made to the letter of Mr. A. J. Bloor, appended hereto. These supplies should be sent to the office of the Women's Central Relief Association, No. 20 Cooper Institute, N. Y., or to F. L. Olmsted, Secretary, 244 F Street, Washington.

Among the supplies now most urgently needed are, vegetables, fresh or canned, as anti-scorbutics, beef stock, hospital clothing, and bedding.

By order of the Executive Committee.

G. T. STRONG,  
*Treasurer.*

H. W. BELLOWS,  
*President.*

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I.

*Copy Letter from F. L. Olmsted, Secretary to the Commission.*

SANITARY COMMISSION FLOATING HOSPITAL,

Tender "Wilson Small,"

White House, June 10th, 1862.

Mr. — goes to Philadelphia to-morrow, in attendance on his friend Mr. —,\* whose strength has at length been entirely exhausted—not, however, until the wounded of the battle of Fair Oaks have ceased to require attention at this point. During the week since the engagement more than *four thousand* have passed through our hands—half this number having been taken away on the transports of the Commission. Scarcely the slightest provision had been made for them, except on these transports, and when they were not at the landing, the weight or care for the sustenance and comforting of the poor wretches sent in from the field by railroad, during the time they necessarily remained here, fell almost wholly on those of the Commission's agents who were not at the time detailed to either of the transports. Messrs. — and — were among these, and the protracted severity of the labor which they willingly undertook would have been possible only under the influence

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\*The gentlemen referred to are two of the Commission's agents at White House.

of the belief that lives depended on the last exertion of their energies, strained to the utmost, and that with men to whom the saving of life became a passion. \* \* \* \*

I am, my dear sir,

Most respectfully yours,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

Residt. Sec'y.

CHARLES J. STILLÉ, Esq.,  
Philadelphia.

## II.

*Extract from Letter to Rev. H. W. Bellows, D. D., President, Sanitary Commission.*

OFF HARRISON'S POINT, JAMES RIVER,  
July 1st, 1862.

\* \* \* \* For the wounded there is no provision: no beef—none at all. They have scarcely begun to be collected yet. The largest depot will be four or five miles above here. \* \* \* \* There are a few hundred ashore here, nothing yet for them to eat. They will begin loading them to-night.

*Anything and everything that you can send is wanted in the largest possible quantities. Buy all the beef stock and canned meats you can, and ship by earliest opportunity. We shall have the Elizabeth here to-night, and land her supplies at once, probably.*

Very respectfully yours,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED.

Dr. BELLOWS.

## III.

*Letter from A. J. Bloor, Washington.*

SANITARY COMMISSION,  
Adams' House, 244 F Street,  
Washington, D. C., July 2d, 1862.

DEAR SIR—I send you herewith the storekeeper's report, in copy, showing in detail the issues from the stores here for the third term of the month of June, that is from the 22d to the 30th, together with an



abstract of the issues for each of the preceding terms of the same month, and a consolidation of the whole, showing the issues for the full month. By this you will perceive that the number of articles distributed has been very large. Of shirts over fourteen thousand (14,000); of towels, handkerchiefs, pillow-cases, and socks about eight thousand (8,000) each; of sheets and pillows about six thousand each (6,000); of quilts three thousand (3,000); of bed-ticks over two thousand (2,000); of drawers the return shows only four thousand two hundred (4,200), but this is simply because we have not had them to give. We have had applications for as many drawers as shirts—for more, I think. At the foot of the sheet I have added a line showing the stock left on hand yesterday (the first of this month.) By comparing the figures of this line with those which show the issues for the period between the 22d and 30th, inclusive, it will be seen that in a little over a week we have sent out much more than we now have on hand. Of quilts we have given in that time nearly double the amount of our present stock; of shirts more than double the number; of drawers, sheets, and bed-ticks nearly three times the number; of socks *seven* times the number; of pillows and cushions a third more; and of pillow-cases about an equal quantity. These, with stimulants, beef-tea and farinacea, are the articles most in demand; and of these latter the issue of stimulants for the whole month has largely exceeded the present stock; while of farinacea, during the last month, twice the amount of that now on hand has been distributed, and for the entire month five times the amount.

*At this rate the supplies of this Commission at this depot will not last more than a few days longer.* I am, therefore, sending a copy of the last five lines of figures in this exhibit to each of our principal supply correspondents, viz. : in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Haven, Providence, Portland, and Newark, so that they may for themselves see what the state of things is, and act accordingly, if they will or can act.

Yours, very respectfully,

ALFRED J. BLOOR.

Rev. H. W. BELLOWS, D. D.

Prest., &c., &c., New York.

## IV.

*Letter from Dr. C. R. Agnew.*

MY DEAR MR. STRONG—I wish you could have been with me at White House during my late visit, to see how much is being done by our agents there to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and wounded soldiers. I have seen a good deal of suffering among our volunteers, and observed the marvellous variety and energy of the beneficence bestowed by the patriotic and philanthropic in camp, in hospital, and on transports for the sick; but nothing has ever impressed me so deeply as this. Perhaps I can better illustrate my meaning by sketching a few of the daily labors of the agents of the Commission as I saw them. The sick and wounded were usually sent down from the front by rail, a distance of about twenty miles, over a rough road, and in the common freight cars. A train generally arrived at White House at 9 P. M., and another at 2 A. M. In order to prepare for the reception of the sick and wounded, Mr. Olmsted, with Drs. Jenkins and Ware, had pitched, by the side of the railway, at White House, a large number of tents, to shelter and feed the convalescent. These tents were their only shelter while waiting to be shipped. Among them was one used as a kitchen and work-room or pantry by the ladies in our service, who prepared beef-tea, milk-punch, and other food and comforts, in anticipation of the arrival of the trains. By the terminus of the railway the large Commission steamboat *Knickerbocker* lay in the Pamunky, in readiness for the reception of 450 patients, provided with comfortable beds and a corps of devoted surgeons, dressers, nurses, and litter-bearers. Just outside of this vessel lay the *Elizabeth*, a steam barge, loaded with the hospital stores of the Commission, and in charge of a store-keeper, always ready to issue supplies. As soon as a train arrived, the moderately sick were selected and placed in the tents near the railroad and fed; those more ill were carried to the upper saloon of the *Knickerbocker*, while the seriously ill, or badly wounded, were placed in the lower saloon and immediately served by the surgeons and dressers. During the three nights that I observed the working of the system, about 700 sick and wounded were provided with quarters and ministered to in all their wants with a tender solicitude and skill that excited my deepest admiration. To see Drs. Ware and Jenkins, lantern in hand, passing thro' the trains, selecting the sick with reference to their necessities, and the ladies following to assuage the thirst, or arouse, by judiciously

administered stimulants, the failing strength of the brave and uncomplaining sufferers, was a spectacle of the most touching character. If you had experienced the debilitating influence of the Pamunky climate, you would be filled with wonder at the mere physical endurance of our corps, who certainly could not have been sustained in the performance of duties, involving labor by day and thro' sleepless nights, without the most philanthropic devotion and the highest sense of Christian duty.

At Savage's Station, too, the Commission had a valuable depot, where comfort and assistance was dispensed to the sick when changing from the ambulances to the cars. I wish I could do justice to the subject of my hasty narrative, or in any due measure convey to your mind the impressions left on mine in observing, even casually, the operations in the care of the sick at these two points.

When we remember what was done by the same noble band of laborers after the battles of Williamsburgh and Fair Oaks in ministering to the wants of *thousands of wounded*, I am sure nothing but feelings of gratitude and thankfulness of the most heartfelt kind can arise.

Yours sincerely,

C. R. AGNEW.

July 1, 1862.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 45.

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## REGULATIONS OF THE NEW YORK AGENCY OF THE COMMISSION, AND FOR ITS TRANSPORT SERVICE ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

### 1.

The general management of the affairs of the Commission in New York and the Eastern States is placed in the hands of the Superintendent of the New York Agency, under the general direction of the Executive Committee. He shall appoint such clerks and messengers as the business of the office shall require, and assign them their respective duties, and they shall be directly responsible to him. The Transportation Agent shall also report daily to him, and act under his direction, and perform such duties in the office and elsewhere as may be assigned to him whenever not engaged in the special duties of his place.

### 2.

The Superintendent alone shall draw on the Treasurer for the expenses of the office and of the transport service, and shall keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, and take receipts therefor. He shall pay all salaries weekly, except those of persons employed in the transport service, which shall be paid immediately on their arrival in New York.

### 3.

All bills for services or supplies ordered by any member or agent of the Commission, in the city of New York, must be certified by the person ordering them, and passed on by the Committee before payment. The Committee shall have power, in special cases, to dispense with the certificate. When approved by the Committee, the Superintendent shall cause the bill to be paid forthwith. No open accounts are to be kept.

### 4.

The Executive Committee will meet at the office of the Commission every day, Sundays excepted, at three P. M. One member shall be

competent to act. Minutes or memoranda of the business transacted at each meeting shall be kept in the book provided for that purpose. Its order of business shall be:

1. Examination of bills presented by the Superintendent, and of his accounts.
2. Examination of persons offering their services as surgeons, dressers, and nurses, or for other positions in the transport service.
3. Reports from agents of the Commission.
4. Correspondence.
5. Miscellaneous business.

At each meeting the Superintendent shall report the cash balance standing to the credit of the Commission on that day.

#### 5.

All letters, and telegrams, on business of the Commission, received at the office are to be filed for convenient reference, and press copies are to be preserved of all such letters and despatches sent from the office. A list is to be kept and conspicuously posted of all letters received for agents or officers of the Commission, and such letters are to be forwarded at once, if possible, or, if not, to be kept until called for—a memorandum being preserved of the disposition of each.

#### 6.

A Register shall be kept, under the direction of the Superintendent, of all sick or wounded men brought to New York on any transport of the Commission. Such Register shall state the name, rank, regiment, company, and residence of each patient, the nature and severity of his wound or disease, and the disposition made of him on his leaving the transport, with any further information in regard to him that may be material.

There shall also be a Register of all persons employed in the transport service of the Commission, specifying the name, age, residence, and business of each, on what transport he is serving, and in what capacity, whether paid or as a volunteer, and if paid, at what rate, and in what capacity, if any, he has been previously employed by the Commission, with references to the confidential reports to be made by Medical Directors of transports after each trip, as to the capacity and conduct of those serving under them respectively.

There shall also be a Register of applicants for positions on transports or for hospital service at the seat of war, stating the name, age, residence, and business of each, his references, the position for which he applies, the compensation, if any, he expects, and the notice he will require

before leaving home—with the name of the member of the Committee by whom he has been examined and approved.

There shall be an Inquiry Book, in which persons calling at the office for information can enter the question they ask, and the place to which answers are to be addressed.

## 7.

Applicants for positions in the transport service will apply to the Committee, at the office of the Commission, at half-past three P. M. If approved, they will be assigned to duty at once, or their names will be registered for vacancies that may occur. They must subscribe a declaration of their loyalty to Government, and a promise to conform strictly to the rules of the Commission, and obey all orders of the Medical Director or his representative, in the following form :

“ I, ———, do certify and declare that I am true and loyal to the  
 “ Government of the United States of America, and that my object in  
 “ applying for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ in the service of the Sanitary  
 “ Commission, is that I may aid the National cause by rendering assist-  
 “ ance to the sick and wounded of the National Army. And I promise  
 “ to fulfil my duties as such \_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my ability, and  
 “ to render prompt obedience to all orders of the Medical Director  
 “ of the transport to which I shall be assigned, or of his representatives,  
 “ with the distinct understanding that for any act of insubordination or  
 “ other misconduct, I am liable to be at once discharged from service,  
 “ and put on shore.”

## 8.

Requisitions on the Medical Purveyor, Assistant Quartermaster, and Commissary of Subsistence, shall be made by the usual printed forms. Copies of these forms shall be bound up in book form, and filled up, so as to be duplicates of those sent in. Each copy shall specify the transport for which such requisition was made.

## 9.

For each transport there shall be a Medical Director, with assistants, a Quartermaster, an Apothecary, and as many dressers and nurses as may be required. All orders of the Medical Director are to be obeyed by every person on his transport in the service of the Commission.

The Quartermaster has charge, under the Medical Director, of all stores and supplies (except those in charge of the apothecary.) He is also responsible for the order and condition of the quarters of the patients, and of those assigned to the agents of the Commission, and others.



In cases of haste and emergency, of which the Medical Director is to be the judge, an agent of the Commission may be assigned to any office or put on any duty the Director may think expedient, without regard to the particular capacity in which he is employed.

## 10.

On leaving port, it is the duty of the Medical Director to divide the ship into suitable wards; to see that all berths and cots are conspicuously numbered; to assign to each ward, provisionally, its medical officer, dressers, and nurses, and, generally, to see that the transport is in all respects ready for the reception and treatment of patients.

On arriving at his destination, he will report, in writing, to the nearest executive officer of the Commission, and to the Assistant Quartermaster and Medical Director of the post, stating what number of men he is prepared to receive, and giving any information in his power as to the class of cases for which the transport is best suited. During the reception of patients on board, he will, so far as his professional duties permit, exercise a general supervision over the ship's Quartermaster, to see that the men's effects are carefully marked and stowed away, and that no one but the Quartermaster and his assistants has an opportunity to interfere with them; and he will cause every complaint as to the loss of effects or money by any patient to be promptly investigated. He will see that the Quartermaster prepares a full and accurate list of patients on board, for the purpose of registry, as provided in § 6, and in case of the death of a patient, that any articles he may have about him which would be valued by his family are carefully put up and marked for transmission to them.

On arriving at New York he will report, in person, forthwith, to the office of the Commission, and as soon as the patients are discharged, will return the list above mentioned to the office, and also a copy of the roster, with a confidential report as to the conduct and capacity of all agents of the Commission employed on that trip. It is desirable also, that he make as soon as practicable a general report in writing to the Executive Committee, stating any special matters connected with the trip, and, in particular, any improvements in the management of the transport service, which his experience may enable him to suggest, and any facts that have come under his observation, in regard to the Sanitary condition of the Shore Hospitals and of the Army generally.

## 11.

Such reports will also be made, if the ship discharge her patients at any port other than New York. The Medical Director will in that case, however, report in person, immediately on his arrival, to the office or representative of the Commission, if any, at such port.

## 12.

It is the duty of the Quartermaster to attend on board the transport while in port, fitting up for her next trip. He will see that the stores are properly stowed when received on board, and that they correspond with the orders given, and will give receipts for them on their delivery to accompany the bills. He will see that no depredations are committed, and that all wine and spirits are securely kept. He is to make up a complete invoice of all stores taken on board, and of the surplus, if any, after the last preceding trip, and must be able at once to find any portion of them when required for use.

He is also to assign quarters to all agents of the Commission on board, and to see that they are in proper order, and to attend to the police of so much of the transport as is used for hospital purposes. He will make a thorough inspection of the Wards daily, and when the ship has patients on board, twice a day, and will cause them to be thoroughly cleaned, all litter and refuse food to be removed from them, and from the deck, and everything offensive to be promptly removed.

He will keep a record of all stores issued by him, and will immediately, on his return, report to the Superintendent a statement of what is left.

When patients are being brought on board, it is his duty to stand at the gangway, with such assistants as may be required, to number each man, and receive from him his knapsack, or other property; affix to it a ticket with a corresponding number, and see it safely stowed away. If (contrary to regulations) the men bring their arms with them, and there be no officer of the U. S. A. by whom they can be taken back to their proper place of deposit, they will be numbered and put away in like manner.

It is the duty of all the officers, but especially of the Quartermaster, to repress any improper conduct on the part of the nurses and servants, and to report it at once to the Medical Director.

## 13.

The Apothecary is to prepare an invoice of the medical stores in his charge, and to report to the Superintendent, on his return, what portion of them remain unexpended. He is to issue no wine or spirits except on the written order of the Medical Director, which orders will be returned to the Superintendent as a voucher for the amount consumed.

## 14.

On the arrival of a transport, the Transportation agent will board her forthwith, and take the necessary steps to prepare her for another trip

with the least possible delay. He will obtain the signature of a member of the Executive Committee to the necessary requisitions, and deliver them at the proper offices, and do all in his power to expedite the issuing of the stores called for, and their delivery on board—purchase such other stores as may be required—send bedding to the laundry—have the ship cleaned and disinfected—and give directions for any work required to be done on board.

He will notify all persons furnishing supplies or labor, that their bills must be sent to the Superintendent's office immediately on the completion of the work or delivery of the goods.

## 15.

On the arrival of a transport, the volunteers in the service of the Commission attached to it, will forthwith report to the Superintendent, and state whether they desire to continue in such service. And all paid agents attached to it, will also report to the Superintendent forthwith, and present their claims for compensation. Omission to do so for three days, (except in case of illness,) will be considered equivalent to a waiver of all claim for compensation.

## 16.

As perfect subordination is absolutely indispensable, no distinction can be made in the transport service between volunteers and paid agents in the transport service. Both classes must be alike prepared to devote themselves wholly to their duties, and to obey the orders of their superior officers with equal promptitude, while in the employ of the Commission.

## 17.

The transports of the Commission cannot be used for the accommodation of persons visiting the seat of war for the gratification of curiosity, or for private and personal reasons. But Medical directors are authorized to give shelter and rations to officers of the Army, and others on public service, who may be unable otherwise to procure them.

## 18.

Medical Directors will use the utmost vigilance to exclude from their transports such men as are but slightly ailing, and ought not to leave their regiments. They will, if possible, put themselves in communication on this subject with the proper military and medical authorities most readily accessible, stating that the Commission has heretofore been required to convey North many whose ailments were too slight to entitle them to sick leave, and that the patriotic bounty of the people entrusted to the Commission has been thus misapplied and perverted, against its protest, and requesting that some duly authorized officer be detailed to



inspect all officers and men sent on board as invalids, and decide whether they are or are not fit for duty.

The names of all "malingerers" detected during the home voyage will be noted by the Director. He will forbid their leaving the ship until they have been reported to the proper military authority at her port, and allowed by him to do so.

## 19.

The Transportation Agent will keep the public informed, through the daily press, of the arrival and sailing of the transports of the Commission.

## 20.

Immediately on the arrival of a Commission transport at Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, or Boston, the representatives of the Commission at that port will inspect her, and report in writing to the Executive Committee their opinion as to her order and cleanliness, the efficiency of her medical staff, and the condition of her patients, and also whether they hear complaints by any of the latter of misconduct by agents of the Commission, and whether they can suggest any change that will render the transport service more efficient.

## 21.

Ladies volunteering for service on transports must consider themselves bound while on duty to the strict subordination which is required of all persons employed by the Commission.

## 22.

No one employed by the Commission is allowed to leave the transport to which he is attached without express permission from the Medical Director. Furloughs at a home port can be granted only by the Executive Committee.

## 23.

The Quartermaster shall report to the Executive Committee the name and rank of any person allowed by Government transportation on any transport of the Commission.

## 24.

As soon as possible after the arrival of any transport at New York the Transportation agent will telegraph to the principal Executive Officer of the Commission, and to the Assistant Quartermaster and Medical Director at her point of destination, stating what number of patients she can carry and when she will be ready to return.

## 25.

No person employed by the Commission in its transport service shall, under any pretext, receive compensation, in any form, from any soldier

or other patient, or from any person allowed transportation by Government, for services of any nature whatever.

26.

It is the duty of any Agent of the Commission who shall become aware of the existence of any abuse or the occurrence of any misconduct on his transport to report the same to the Medical Director forthwith, and to the Superintendent on the arrival of the transport at New York.

27.

No gaming for money is permitted on any transport.

28.

No person but the Medical Director is authorized or allowed to take charge of any money or valuables belonging to a patient, except such as the Quartermaster is to receive from patients when brought on board.

29.

Persons entering the service of the Commission as volunteers will be allowed their necessary expenses of board and travel during the intervals between the trips of their transports. But they will, under no pretext, be allowed compensation for past services.

30.

A copy of these Rules will be furnished to every person employed in the transport service.

Adopted July 15th, 1862.

HENRY W. BELLOWS,  
FRED'K LAW OLMSTED,  
W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,  
CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,  
WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,  
G. T. STRONG,

*Executive Committee.*

No. 46.

Mortality and Sickness of the U. S. Volunteer Forces.

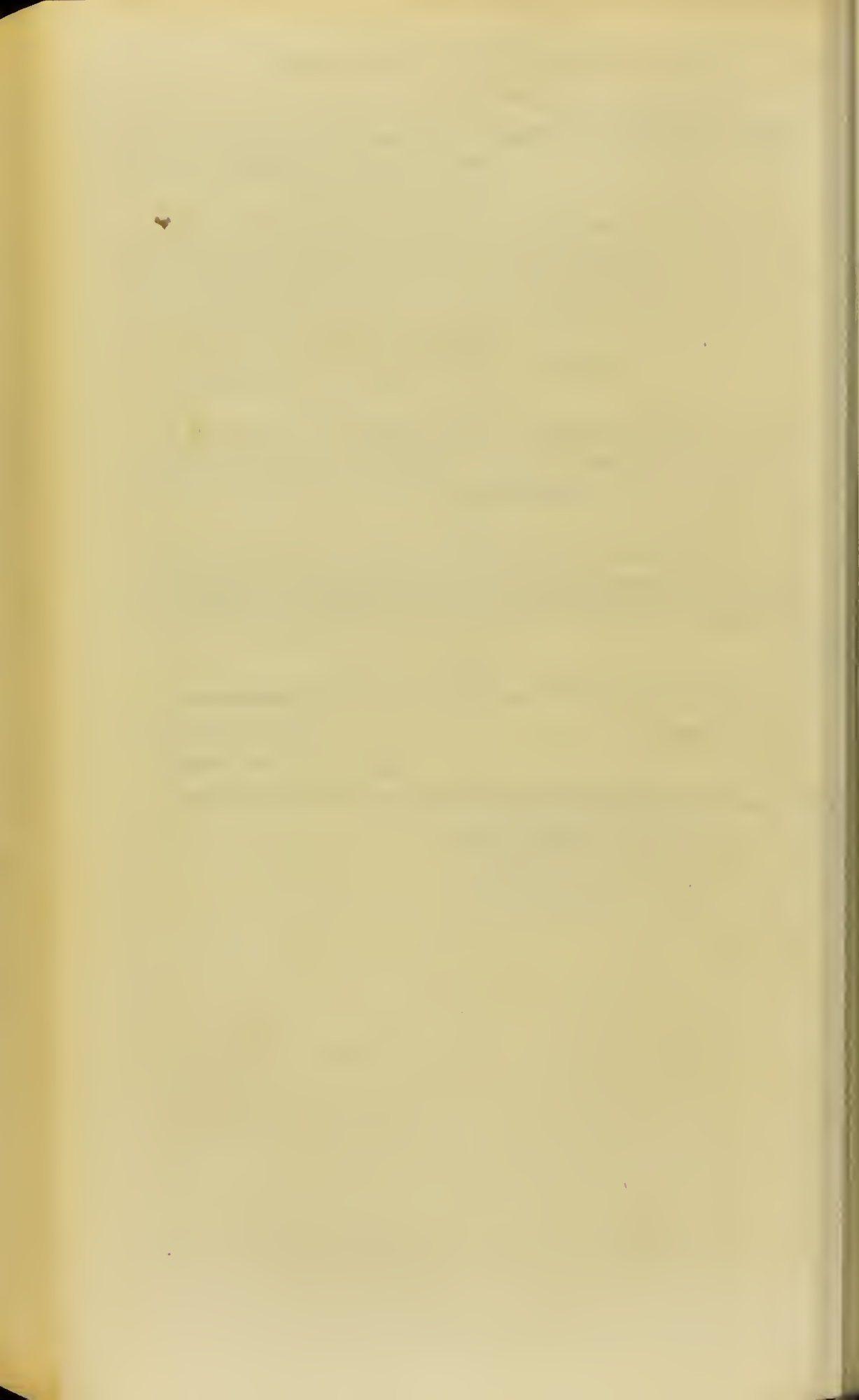
0 pp.

E. B. ELLIOTT.

(May 18, 1862.)

To be partially included in final Report of the Statistical  
Department.





# SANITARY COMMISSION,

No. 47.

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New York, August 5th, 1862.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

*President of the United States :*

MR. PRESIDENT :

The great loss of life, from other causes than injuries received in battle, during the recent campaign on the peninsula of Virginia, has excited a marked degree of public attention, and is alleged to have materially discouraged volunteering. It cannot be doubted that many who would be influenced by no fear of death in an encounter with the enemies of their country, shrink from those dangers under which the strength of the Army of the Potomac is known to have been so greatly wasted before it left its works on the line of the Chickahominy. That exhaustion from excessive fatigue and privation, was the chief of these dangers, is now generally and not unreasonably believed.

In letters written, after personal observation of the Army of the Potomac, by the Secretary of the Commission, which were placed in your hands early in July, it was urged that the only efficient security immediately available against a great aggravation of this evil, and consequent danger of disaster, was the exercise of the executive power to command men for the instant reinforcement of the reduced and jaded regiments in the field. Moved by the same considerations, we addressed you, on the 21st of July, in an argument favoring the same proposi-

tion, fortified by a careful compilation of statistics bearing upon it.

The object of the present communication is to urge that the loyal militia of the nation should be thoroughly organized, under the inspection of Federal Officers, medical and military, and that the States should be called upon to maintain in camps or other schools for the preparation of recruits for the army in the field, a constant force of at least a million.

We urge this as a measure necessary to satisfy the demands of the People, and as justified by proper consideration for the health of the Army in the field.

Any doubt which may arise as to the propriety of our addressing you a statement of our conviction of the demands of the People in a matter of this nature, will disappear when it is considered, that in speaking for the Sanitary Commission, we speak also for its thousand associate members, citizens of the most eminent discretion and patriotism throughout the land, and for hundreds of thousands of loyal men and woman who have made it their organ and mouth-piece with Government, who bestow upon it means of usefulness to the amount of millions, and to whom it is pledged to act with energy wherever it can, in all that concerns the health of the Volunteer Army.

In the theory of our Government, every citizen is a soldier at the command of the President, and it is the duty of the President in time of war to command the soldier-citizen, before the latter is bound to withdraw himself from his ordinary occupations in the peaceful organization of society. Hence, under ordinary circumstances, it is no reproach to the citizen that he fails to volunteer.

Yet it is a matter of regret that the reinforcement of the army by volunteering has not of late been more rapid, and that the quality of the volunteers at present offering is not better than we have reason to fear that it is. We have



earnestly sought to ascertain to what the comparatively slow progress of volunteering is due, when there is in no other respect evidence of want of patriotic spirit among the people. We are compelled, with all respect and deference, to state our deliberate conclusion that it is mainly due to a widespread want of confidence in the intention of the Government so to use the whole strength of the nation as to obtain the certainty of immediate and complete success in the movements in which the volunteers are to take part. Men will not volunteer for a lingering war. They will not volunteer if they believe that ten soldiers are to fall under typhoid fever, to every one who falls in an advance upon the enemy. When you order, they will obey ; but at present there unquestionably is a general indisposition to volunteer upon your mere invitation. And we think that we have indicated why this indisposition is so general as it is.

The question now arises :

Will the order this day promulgated, for a draft of 300,000 men, to reinforce the armies in the field, satisfy the demand of the people, and restore the needed confidence ?

We answer, that in our judgment it does not reach the root of the difficulty.

That difficulty lies chiefly in the fact, that the force of our armies engaged in active operations has always, *in the end*, proved to be insufficient for the work which has been imposed upon them ; that regiments, when depleted by battle and disease, have remained long in their weak condition, and yet been required to perform guard and fatigue duties which they would have found severe when in their full strength. That in consequence of this, and often solely in consequence of this, the men and officers have become harrassed, feverish, exhausted of strength, depressed, and despondent, and have communi-

cated their feelings to friends at home, and finally to the whole community.

What remedy for this difficulty would meet the wishes of the people?

In the beginning of the war, many hundred thousand men not then able or disposed to volunteer at once, formed themselves into squads and companies for instruction in military drill, thus recognizing the necessity for large reserves to be put in training as an essential element of efficient national defence. Government, however, did not avail itself in any manner of the great strength and security offered in this disposition of the people, and members of these organizations having acquired some degree of proficiency in the manual, and finding it impracticable, by purely voluntary action, to proceed further, have, for the most part quietly disbanded. The disposition indicated by their formation, however, still exists.

If Government had required, one year ago, that a million of militia should be put under systematic training, mainly in camps, the measure would have been exceedingly popular. It would be so now.

The choice of men being made in the first place by lot, and the employment of permanent substitutes being permitted, the laws of trade would be sufficient to select from each community those who possessed more valuable qualifications for military service than for other service to the country. What a citizen is disposed and able to pay for a substitute to take his place in a camp of militia, as a general rule, indicates approximately the importance to the community of the function he is already performing in the industrial economy of society. The services of those who are influenced by cowardice, laziness, or disloyalty, to pay extravagantly, however valueless they may be to the community in which they live, must be still less desirable in a military point of view, while men who,

from ardent patriotism and inclination for a military life, are induced to make unusual sacrifices rather than procure substitutes, are of the highest military value. A million of militia deliberately gathered as we have proposed, would consist in large part of young men without important business trusts or dependent families, but who yet have, at present, such obligations resting upon them that they cannot volunteer. Thousands of such men would gladly accept a duty overriding those obligations, and legally and morally disengaging them from their present home-keeping duties.

Suppose that a million men had been thus in a great measure *detached in advance from their ordinary business entanglements and obligations* and each man accustomed, under training, however imperfect, to act in company and regimental relations with others. When the sudden and urgent call for three hundred thousand volunteers was made a month ago is it likely that there would have been a month's delay in meeting it? Had there been such a resort for recruits, would there have been occasion for this call? We believe not. We believe that had such a reserve been established every regiment of the army of the Potomac would have been kept by volunteers from it at very nearly its maximum strength, and in this case, that the great loss of life and depression of spirits which occurred in that army through disease consequent upon fatigue and exhaustion would have been in a great measure avoided.

The necessity of a measure of this kind was brought to the notice of the Commission, and the propriety of urging it upon the government seriously considered, nearly a year ago. Its purely sanitary necessity was then, however, deemed to be too remote to justify the proposed action. But, in the progress of events, there is no longer room for doubt that its advantages, in a sanitary point of view, would have been of the greatest possible value.



Similar advantages, we respectfully submit, would attend the same measure, if taken at this time. From sanitary considerations alone, no regiment in the field should be allowed to remain seriously weakened in force for any considerable period. Holding full regiments in reserve, ready to be brought, as full regiments, into active service, does not remedy the evil. Reinforcements purely of raw recruits, will not obviate it. But a million of trained militia, already withdrawn from ordinary occupations, and held in reserve, far in the rear of active military life, would, in all probability, supply an adequate guard against it.

It is needless to point out the vast advantages under which men drawn from such reserves (whether as individual volunteers or drafted regiments) would take the field. They would have acquired not merely military training, but ability to take care of themselves in camp, and experience in cooking, in camp police, in personal cleanliness, and in everything that affects their sanitary condition. Above all, they would have passed through what may be called the acclimating period of military life, during which the available strength of many of our newly raised regiments has been reduced more than one half by measles and other like diseases.

The number we have named as proper to be kept in reserve, will not be thought excessive, when it is considered that according to experience thus far in the war, 123,000 men must be annually recruited to maintain a force of 500,000 in the field, in full strength.\*

The total number of men who are to fall sick and die, or be disabled, by sickness, in the Army will necessarily be proportional to the time which is required for the suppression of the rebellion. A sustained force sufficiently large to crush

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\* See statistics furnished by Mr. Elliott at p. 6 of the printed copy of our communication of July 21st.

all opposition before it, is therefore desirable, if only from a purely sanitary point of view. The same considerations clearly apply; and with even greater force, to losses in actual conflict, which are within certain limits inversely as the strength of the attacking party. We may also remember that the actual expenditures of a war are also always in proportion to strength, and that an overwhelming force, sustained to the end, is therefore necessarily the cheapest.

We finally beg to observe that the effective military force which a nation is able to sustain in the field, not that which it can raise under the spasmodic excitement of emergencies, is the measure of the respect and consideration it is likely to receive abroad as well as at home.

We have the honor to be, Mr. President,

With great respect,

Your obedient servants,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.,

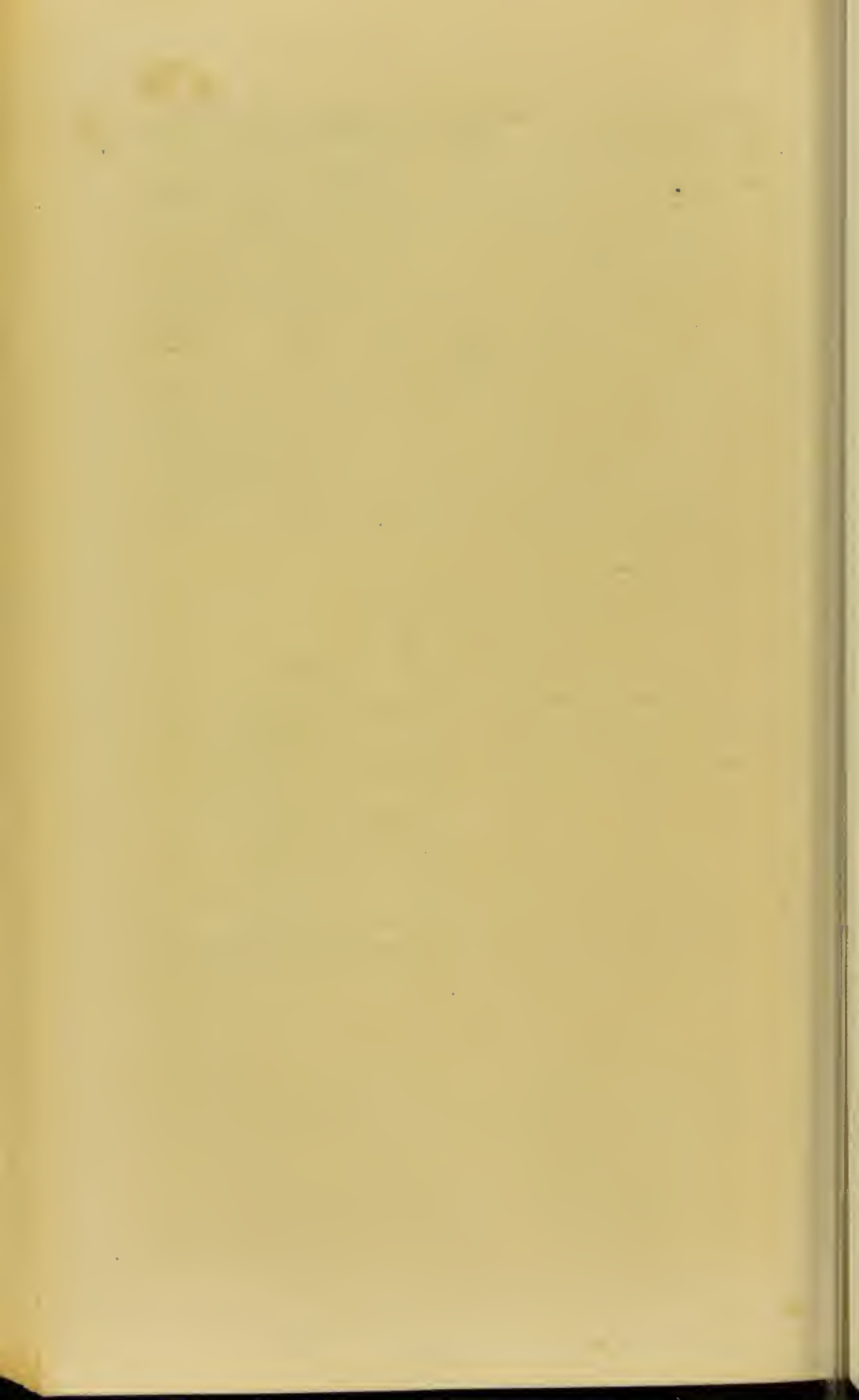
WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,

GEO. T. STRONG,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Executive Committee,*

*Sanitary Commission.*





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 48.

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SANITARY COMMISSION, NEW YORK AGENCY,  
No. 498 Broadway, Sept. 24, 1862.

The Sanitary Commission is daily answering the requirements of eighty General Military Hospitals, not to speak of Regimental and other Hospitals. Of these, forty-seven hospitals, containing twenty thousand sick or wounded men, are in the District of Columbia. Whatever the surgeons want, which they cannot procure according to regulations, of the United States purveyors, they can get from us, and they want enough to keep our vast storehouse continually on the drain. Joined to this, the recent successive weeks of battle, first before Richmond, adding 5,000 wounded, at Bull Run 6,000 wounded, and now in Maryland from 7,000 to 10,000 wounded to the list, have thrown an immense strain on our resources. Our independent means of transportation often enable us to reach the wounded with stores in advance of all Government or other supplies. The first *two* days are more important than the next ten to the saving of life and the relief of misery.

At the recent battle-ground we were able to be present in advance, two days, of all supplies (beyond the small amount in the nearly empty storehouse of the army Medical Purveyor,) with twenty-five wagon-loads of stimulants, condensed food, medicines, and conveniences. Within a week we dispatched successfully, by teams, to the scene of battle, from Washington alone, 28,763 pieces dry-goods, shirts, towels, bed-ticks, pillows, &c., 30 barrels bandages, old linen, &c., 3,188 pounds farina, &c.; 2,620 pounds condensed milk, 5,050 pounds beef-stock and canned meats, 3,000 bottles wine and cordials, and several tons of lemons and other fruit, crackers, tea, sugar, rubber-cloth, tin cups, and hospital conveniences. Great and constant, therefore, as the supplies of our Central Auxiliary Association are, and of the towns and villages on which they depend, they ought not to be surprised to learn that our Washington storehouses are bare of shirts, drawers,

slippers, socks, bed-sacks, blankets, and old clothing, and that only the ceaseless and increased activity and humanity of our women can be depended on to meet the new demand.

To Societies having a hundred women at command, and engaging to supply us promptly with articles to our order, we will, until the urgency of the call is over, supply materials for shirts and drawers and stockings at our discretion. Application must be made for the materials by agents from the Societies, in *person*, at No. 498 Broadway, New York.

Of course, *this* is not the perfect support we want. Patriotism should inspire communities to supply their own materials, as well as their own work. There is no danger that the work will be overdone. It has always been checked by that fear; but our experience has perfectly proved that the demand is greater than the supply. Let the homes of the land abandon the preparation of comforts and packages for *individual* soldiers. They only load down and embarrass him. If they contain eatables they commonly spoil; if they do not spoil, they enervate the soldier; if made up of extra clothing they crush him on the march. All this kindness kills, and helps fill the hospitals. The benevolence of the country must be exclusively concentrated on the hospitals and the sick and wounded. These cannot be taken too much care of, nor nursed too well. Supplies *can positively be made to reach these*; they *cannot* reach with any certainty soldiers in the field; and the ill name suffered by those who, like ourselves, are ministering to the hospitals, for non-delivery of the goods sent us, is wholly due to confounding the failure of irresponsible parties to deliver things kindly, but mischievously, intended for *well* men, with (what does not occur) our alleged failure to transmit everything sent us to the hospitals where they are needed. Of a *million* articles sent us, we defy any scrutiny to prove a hundred lost. The reports of the men returning from the field, saying that they have *bought* our stores, shirts, drawers, &c., are based on the fact that after these supplies *have done their work*, they may, in some cases, be sold by the soldiers to whom they were given, and who cannot, as convalescents, carry them. No sick soldier ever bought a single article from any agent of ours.

It is impossible on our system, and is utterly false. Base men may claim the name of our agents, but we have no base men in our employ. The agents in our employ have proved their worth by laying down their health, almost without exception, and in some cases their lives, in our exacting and exposed service.

Our books, methods, returns are always open to the unshackled inspection of the public, and we have no desire so strong, as for unsparing and merciless examination of our work.

Our expenses, both in money and administration, are necessarily very large, and always increasing. California has sent us a magnificent donation. But it would be a prodigious mistake to withhold the money liberality of our older cities on that account. If our usual income from the wealth of the North were cut off by this great windfall, San Francisco would prove, in three months, our ruin instead of our support. Send in then, steadily, supplies and money! Only a great accumulation of both can give us the confidence to act with the energy and liberality which are the conditions of our humane success. The letters and papers published herewith will indicate the nature and extent of that portion of the work of the Commission which is performed on the battle ground.

In behalf of the Executive Committee,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,  
President.

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I.—REPORT OF W. M. CHAMBERLAIN, M. D., *Inspector*.

To J. F. JENKINS, M. D.,

*Assistant Secretary of Sanitary Commission, &c.,  
For the Army of the Potomac:*

SIR—On Thursday, September 18th, I was requested by Mr. Olmsted to visit Philadelphia, and do whatever might be required in expediting the sending of supplies to the battle-field, with authority to proceed thither if it should seem desirable to do so.

Arriving in Philadelphia at fifteen minutes before 12, midnight, I took a carriage to the rooms of the Commission (1235 Chestnut street.) Half an hour was consumed in the effort to wake some one in the building. Thence I went to the residence of Mr. Ashurst, whose address Mr.



Bloor had given me, and after a like delay, found that he was not in town. Thence to the residence of Mr. C. J. Stille, whom I succeeded in finding. From him I learned that a large invoice of stores had been that afternoon dispatched *via* Harrisburgh, in charge of Dr. Corse, and consigned to Dr. E. A. Crane, Insp. San. Com., at Chambersburgh, and that eight barrels of wine, five of whiskey, and one large cask of brandy had been forwarded to the same address, in charge of Adams's Express.

Mr. Stille also told me that Dr. Corse had received five hundred dollars to distribute in whatever way might be needed to hasten the transit of the stores to the field, and to increase the comforts of the wounded.

He earnestly requested me to proceed at once to Chambersburgh and aid Drs. Crane and Corse in these matters.

While conferring with Mr. Stille, he received a telegram from Mr. Olmsted, advising that no further supplies should be sent *via* Chambersburgh, on account of obstructions to transportation in the railroad. In accordance with Mr. Stille's request, I left at 11 A. M. on Friday for Chambersburgh, and reaching Harrisburgh at 4 P. M., found that there was no train to be sent that day to Chambersburgh. At seven P. M., however, orders were received to send forward to Hagerstown two regiments of Pennsylvania State Militia, and I procured a passage with them.

Our train passed the junction rapidly, and I was not able to get off, but proceeded with it to Hagerstown, which was reached at 9 A. M. on Saturday. During the transit, I was interested in observing the character and spirit of the regiment with which I was travelling. The nucleus, and a considerable portion of the body of it, was from the Custom House, and other Government offices of Philadelphia. The officers were men of gentlemanly manners, and general intelligence, of mature age, and good social position. The regiment had been enrolled, quartered, and equipped in three days, largely from the private means of the officers and their friends in Philadelphia.

They had taken arms in response to Gov. Curtin's call upon the people for the defence of the border. They were well armed and equipped, and apparently unanimous in saying that they would go where they might be sent, and stay even to the end of the war, if desired.

At Hagerstown I found Dr. Crane, and, conferring with him, it was agreed between us, that he should return to Chambersburgh to meet Dr. Corse, and forward the stores to me at Hagerstown. Accordingly he left at 3 P. M. on Saturday upon that errand.

I found also Dr. A. K. Smith, U. S. A., at Hagerstown, having just arrived, with authority from the Surgeon General to assume control

of all hospitals and hospital stores, and all regimental, State, and volunteer surgeons at that point. He had established hospitals in a Lyceum Hall, the Court-House and the Washington Hotel, and was expecting the arrival of a large supply of Government medical stores, which left Philadelphia a few hours in advance of those of the Commission.

He had already dispatched about 150 slightly wounded men by railroad to Harrisburgh, and had about the same number remaining in hospitals, who were dependent upon the charity of the citizens of Hagerstown and vicinity for their food, beyond regular army rations, and for all other stores. The people of the place responded nobly to the call, and kind men and women, bringing bread, tea, and soup, &c., were constantly passing in and out of the hospitals. Many straw mattresses had thus been supplied, and mechanics were making rude bedsteads for them. There seemed to be no lack of surgical supplies. (strictly,) but from what source they came I did not learn.

The medical corps was Drs. Smith, Palmer, and Rogers—an insufficient number—but upon Sunday Dr. Greenleaf, U. S. A., and others, were added to it. I thought the best use of my time would be to visit the field, and learn how and where I might make them available when they should arrive. Accordingly, I left at noon on Saturday, and went by the Sharpsburg pike to the right of the battle-field, where I met Dr. Leland, of the 2d Mass. Regiment, attached to the hospital of Banks' *corps d'armee*, who told me that there were nearly 10,000 of the wounded of both armies lying in field depots at and about the houses and barns, from one-half to three miles in the rear of the battle-field, in a semi-circle from near Williamsport around to the mouth of Antietam creek, wanting supplies of all kinds, none being at hand except those carried with the marching regiments, and such as could be obtained from the neighborhood. From the portions of the field that I visited the wounded had all been removed, but the hundreds of dead were lying where they fell, while the Irish brigade were engaged in collecting and burying them. Upon the field to which I went the mortality among the Confederates had been dreadful, and I could not understand why it had apparently been much less to our forces. Upon one spot Hooker's corps had advanced over a rounded swell of land, upon the rebel line lying upon the ground beneath a rail fence. Our line must have been relieved against the sky beyond, while their foes were prostrated and sheltered, and assimilating in their dirty clothing the color of the ground upon which they lay, yet the havoc among our men, though great, did not equal the continuous rank of dead which lay behind the fence, which was riddled with musket balls.

I noticed that decomposition was proceeding much more rapidly among the Confederate dead than among ours, and conjectured that it might be due to the restricted use of salt with their food.

From the field I returned at 9 P. M. to Hagerstown, and found that no supplies had as yet arrived either from Government or the Commission.

On Sunday morning Dr. Crane telegraphed that they had not yet reached Chambersburgh, and later that the liquors sent by Adams & Co. *had* come in and would be directly sent down.

In my frequent visits to the railroad I had noticed a pile of boxes containing blankets, (36 each,) and a few miscellaneous cases marked "Lint, Bandages, Old Linen Shirts, Drawers," &c. These were all addressed to General R. J. Hall, Quartermaster General of the State of Pennsylvania—the blankets being from the Quartermaster's Department, U. S. A., and the miscellaneous articles from the "Soldiers' Aid Societies" in the State of Pennsylvania.

I applied to Dr. A. K. Smith, Medical Director, for permission to seize these and convey them to the field hospitals, which he granted. The order to this effect I then took to Brigadier General Reynolds, commanding at Hagerstown, and procured his endorsement thereon. I then called upon him for transportation, and received a note to Capt. Weeks, Quartermaster and A. D. C., desiring him to aid me in procuring it. I then dispatched Mr. Corson, a gentleman from Philadelphia, who had accompanied me from Harrisburgh into the country about Hagerstown, to beg or hire, at any price asked, conveyances to the field. The Quartermaster had been for two days pressing everything of the sort, having patrolled with cavalry the whole vicinity. The demand for wagons was constant and from all quarters. No sooner was one brought in than numerous applicants claimed it from the Quartermaster for forage, for ammunition, for commissary stores, &c., &c. Leaving Mr. E. T. Ellis at the Quartermaster's office to defend and prosecute our claim to wagons, I went another way into the country to look for them—and obtained one small one—which I immediately loaded with blankets, and bandages, &c., bought wine and whiskey and dispatched them by the owner of the wagon, to the care of the surgeon in charge of hospitals at Keedysville.

About 2 P. M. our liquors arrived, and I succeeded in getting two army wagons captured from Jackson's ammunition train. These I loaded with blankets and miscellaneous stores and placed a large cask of whiskey and two barrels of sherry wine in them, and at 7 P. M. started for the field, accompanied Mr. E. F. Ellis, Mr. Smith, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Coleman, of Lebanon, who had come on to do whatever they could for the wounded.



We were furnished with an escort of two cavalry men by General Reynolds, and reached the Hospital of Banks' Army Corps about 12 midnight, where we gave out blankets to the wounded lying upon the ground who needed them.

The night being dark and there being but a track through fields thence to the Hospitals, we were obliged to suspend operations for the night, but resumed them at daylight, visiting successively—

(1.)	Hospital in charge of Dr. Knight.....	containing 57 patients.		
(2.)	" " " " Dr. Chappel.....	220	"	"
	(Banks' Army Corps.)			
(3.)	" " " " Dr. Hayward, 13th Mass.	90	"	"
(4.)	White House Hosp., Dr. King, Penn. Reserve	850	"	"
(5.)	Smoketown Hosp., Dr. Vandegriff, 102d N. Y.	221	"	"
(6.)	Brick-House Hosp., Dr. Heywood, 20th Mass.	1,400	"	approximate.
(7.)	Hospital of Dr. Dana, 107th Pa. Vols.....	25	"	"
(8.)	" " Dr. Reno.....	32	"	"
(9.)	Valley-Mills Hospital, Dr. Wilcox.....	200	"	"
(10.)	Sedgewick's Div. Hosp.....	280	"	"
(11.)	Brick-Church Hospital, Dr. Perkins.....	40	"	"
(12.)	School-House " Dr. Pinkney.....	46	"	"
(13.)	Old Mill " Dr. Atkinson.....	160	"	"
(14.)	Brown-House " Dr. Chamberlain.....	35	"	"

To each of these hospitals we issued as much wine and whiskey as the surgeons in charge desired, and a modicum—distressingly inadequate in most cases—of shirts, drawers, blankets, bandages, old linen, cushions, pads, farinaceous food, &c., &c., meeting everywhere the most eager welcome, and blessings on the Sanitary Commission. When we left No. 14 our stock was exhausted, except the second cask of sherry wine, and we were obliged to turn away, leaving many more hospitals, some upon the most hotly contested fields, unvisited. Those upon the right of the field had not, when we visited them, received anything from any source, except the neighbors, while those upon the left had been visited and partially supplied from several sources. About the middle of the day we met a train of Government Hospital stores coming in from the direction of Boonesboro', while at the Brick-House Hospital we met Dr. Steiner, who told us that the Commission had that morning opened a store-house at Sharpsburgh, so that the most pressing wants, except those of shelter, were, doubtless, met soon after.

As upon previous occasions, I was impressed with the diligence and devotion of the surgeons, and the liberality and energy of the Medical Department, which was represented by the Surgeon General in person, and Drs. Mussey and Vollum, Medical Inspectors.

We reached Hagerstown, upon our return, at 11 P. M., Monday, when, to my surprise, I learned that none of our stores had yet arrived.

Previous to leaving on Sunday afternoon, I had the thirteen casks of liquors stored in the freight-house of the C. V. R. R., in charge of Major

Allen, General Superintendent of the road, who assured me that they would be safely kept there, but would give me no receipt for them. Upon Tuesday I was desired by Dr. Smith, Medical Director, to take charge of a train containing 347 wounded men and conduct them to Harrisburgh. After many delays, the train was started at 3 P. M., and was compelled to lay by at several points to wait the passage of other trains. At Shippensburgh and Carlisle, it was met by the ladies of those places, and the wounded were most abundantly supplied with tea, coffee, fruit, bread and butter, &c. The enthusiasm of the ladies was wonderful. They were clamorous that the wounded should be left among them to be nursed and feasted, and when they could no longer find any one to eat and drink their good things, they gathered in groups and sang the "Star-Spangled Banner," and the "Red, White, and Blue," which was answered by the men with cheers for the flag and cheers for Gen. McClellan.

At Chambersburgh, I met Dr. Crane, and gave him a history of what had fallen under my observation, and we conferred as to his future operations. The train arrived in Harrisburgh at 1 A. M. on Wednesday, and I proceeded to Philadelphia, where I made my report to Mr. Stille, and learned from him that he had been apprized that our stores had been lost sight of by Dr. Cole, at Harrisburgh, on the previous Friday, and were still remaining there, or at some station on the Cumberland Valley Railroad, with an assurance from the superintendent that he would see them forwarded immediately.

Arriving in New York at 4 P. M., I reported to the New York Executive Committee, and was instructed by them to prepare the above hasty report, and deliver it to them this day, (Thursday, Sept. 25th,) in charge for you.

The disbursements on account of the Commission, upon this excursion, amounted to \$44 74, as per memorandum annexed, which I paid from my own purse.

As my services on this occasion were volunteered, I do not propose to make an account with the Commission for my own time.

It is proper that I should acknowledge the very efficient aid rendered me by Messrs. Smith, Corson, and Ellis, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Coleman, of Lebanon, Pa., who placed themselves at my command while in Hagerstown, and accompanied me to the field.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. CHAMBERLAIN, M. D.,

(Late Sanitary Inspector.)

## II.—LETTER FROM MR. OLMSTED.

WASHINGTON, September 23.

“TO DR. BELLOWS, President: Sir—I enclose Dr. Agnew’s letter. We have sent him, since the army of Virginia went to meet the invaders, that is, within ten days:

“28,763 pieces of dry goods, shirts, towels, bedticks, pillows, &c.; 30 barrels old linen bandages and lint; 3,188 pounds farina; 2,620 pounds condensed milk; 5,000 pounds beef stock and canned meats; 3,000 bottles wine and cordials, and several tons of lemons and other fruit, crackers, tea, sugar, rubber cloth, tin cups, and hospital conveniences.

“We are sending more forward constantly. Four thousand sets of hospital clothing will, by special train from New York, get through to Frederick to-morrow, if money and energy can break through the obstructions of this embarrassed transportation.

“Your daily supplies from New York are reaching us regularly.

“Respectfully yours,

“F. L. OLMSTED.”

## III.—LETTER FROM DR. AGNEW.

SANITARY COMMISSION DEPOT,  
Frederick, Md., September 22d, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR—I cannot now give you a report of all our doings since last Wednesday night, but it will give you joy to know that we have given some aid and comfort to *over five thousand wounded*. I left Washington, as you know, on Wednesday at midnight. Arriving at the break in the railroad at Monocacy, Dr. Harris and I walked on to Frederick, where I found Dr. Steiner, our Inspector, working with great zeal and efficiency. The demand for our supplies was so pressing that it was thought best to open a store-house at once, and Dr. Steiner procured one near the railroad station, in anticipation of the reconstruction of the bridge over the Monocacy, and the resumption of steam transportation. Frederick will be the great depot for the wounded, whence they will be distributed to Washington and Baltimore, and hence the necessity of giving Dr. Steiner large supplies of hospital stores. Dr. Harris remained at Frederick to hasten up supplies, and I pushed on on horseback with Dr. Vollum to Middletown, and quartered with a clergyman of the Dutch Reformed persuasion. I was thoroughly wet, and although compelled to sleep in my wet clothes, did not suffer. I found Dr. Thompson, Assistant Surgeon, acting Medical Director, at Middletown, and all the churches and public buildings filled with the wounded of Sunday’s battle.



I was greatly delighted by the evidences of Dr. Thompson's efficiency and humanity. Dr. Letterman, McClellan's Medical Director, had left Dr. Thompson at Middletown, with full power to act, and by so doing certainly made a most unexceptionable selection of an officer to perform most delicate and onerous duties. Fifteen hundred of our wounded have enjoyed his humane and self-denying ministrations.

No additional medical supplies having arrived for Dr. Thompson, I desired him to take them from the Sanitary Commission wagons as they came. He had previously obtained many essential articles of food, &c., from our advanced train. I left him twenty-five dollars to be used in purchasing such things as we had not, to replenish his deficient stores. Early on Friday morning I went on to Keedysville, and to General McClellan's headquarters. About noon (Friday, 19th) Dunning arrived with his wagon, and early on the evening of Friday, Mitchell and his train of wagons; on Saturday morning Dr. Brink and Mr. Peverly arrived, and now our stores of stimulants, condensed food, bandages, etc., became abundant.

Dunning and myself went out with stores of beef-stock, stimulants, and surgical dressings, as soon as he arrived, and visited barns and farm-houses within a mile and a half from headquarters, and carried some relief to nearly two thousand wounded. Everywhere we were asked for chloroform and opiates, instruments and bed-pans, and everything, in fact, required for the wounded, except the coarser food furnished by the Commissary, and the comforts provided to the extent of their ability by the inhabitants, who had been previously nearly stripped by the rebels.

It should be remembered that so rapid was the movement of the army through Washington after the disaster and losses of the Virginia campaign, that the regimental and brigade and division medical officers could not, to any considerable extent, replenish their exhausted supplies.

The medical supplies sent to meet the emergency on Wednesday, did not begin to arrive on the battle-field until Saturday afternoon, and then in small quantity, and entirely inadequate. Many of the same supplies are still here, (at Frederick,) awaiting transportation, while the Commission has had at least four wagon trains sent to the front that left Washington subsequent to Wednesday afternoon, in addition to two sent before in anticipation of the battle. You can estimate at your office the number of wagons we have sent forward, including Hay's trains, which will be on the battle-field this afternoon. As soon as Brink and Mitchell and Parsons arrived on the battle-field, I sent them over radii, previously ascertained to be within the circle of the late battles. They will be able

to state personally the fields of their operations, as I desired them to keep notes. I left Dunning's wagon—in fact all the two-horse wagons and ambulances of our train—constantly going, and carrying relief to thousands of wounded.

The wounded were mainly clustered about barns, occupying the barn-yards, and floors, and stables, having plenty of good straw, well broken by the power threshing machine. I saw fifteen hundred wounded men lying upon the straw about two barns, within sight of each other! Indeed, there is not a barn, or farm-house, or store, or church, or school-house, between Boonesboro', Keedysville, and Sharpsburgh, and the latter and Smoketown, that is not gorged with wounded—rebel and union. Even the corn-cribs, and in many instances the cow-stable, and in one place the mangers were filled. Several thousands lie in the open air upon straw, and all are receiving the kind services of the farmers' families and the surgeons.

I hope I never shall forget the evidences everywhere manifested of the unselfish and devoted heroism of our surgeons, regular and volunteer, in the care of both Federal and rebel wounded. Wherever I went I encountered surgeons and chaplains who had given themselves no rest in view of the overwhelming claims of suffering humanity; General McClellan's Medical Director had several times been over the field, and given personal direction to the labors of the surgeons, and Dr. Rauch, U. S. A., and others, were everywhere actively engaged.

General McClellan moved his headquarters from Keedysville on Saturday to Sharpsburgh. Just here I cannot avoid introducing an illustration of the pressing necessity of some means of independent transportation for the medical officers. Everything was carried away to the new camp ground within two hours after the tents were struck—*except the medical stores*—they remained a solitary pile in the midst of a deserted camp, for nearly twenty-four hours, awaiting transportation.

Having studied the field and the relations of the clusters of wounded to a central point, I took on Saturday a store at Sharpsburgh, hiring it of a Union citizen of the name of Cronise. On Saturday evening I brought up the mule teams of Peverley to Sharpsburgh. On Sunday morning, Dunning, Mitchell, Parsons, and myself, unpacked the boxes and filled the shelves and bins. I took charge of the wagons on Saturday night, because Dunning, Brink, and Mitchell were out with relief, to the right and left, for about three thousand wounded; and Parsons had gone back, under instructions from Medical Director Letterman, and my approval, to Birkettsville with relief to five hundred and forty wounded.

To finish the store business, I may say that I have left Parsons and Peverley, and a clerk of Mr. Cronise, in charge of the Sharpsburgh

store, taking care to provide, out of our trains, a wagon and a saddle-horse for Dr. Dunning, and the same for Dr. Brink. I have given them written instructions to use the saddle-horses to explore the barnyards and hamlets of the country, and the wagons to accompany with stores of food, stimulants, bandages, clothing, &c., &c.

Our plans, so far, are working splendidly, thanks to the vigor with which you at Washington have crowded forward supplies, and the aid given by Dr. Letterman and his medical officers. We have been ahead of every one, and at least two days ahead of the supplies of the Medical Bureau; the latter fact due to its want of independent transportation. A single item will show the value of our supplies; we have given out over thirty pounds of chloroform within three days after the battle. The medical authorities had not one hundredth part of what was needed, and in many places important operations were necessarily neglected and life lost. *Our chloroform saved at least fifty lives, and saved several hundred from the pain of severe operations.* The want of chloroform was the most serious deficiency in the regular medical supplies, and as the result, amputations which should have been primary will now be secondary or impossible. (The mortality from secondary amputations is very much greater than from primary.)

But everything in the way of medical supplies was deficient; poor fellows, with lacerated and broken thighs, had to be carried out of barns into the open fields to answer a call of nature; men, suffering the agony of terrible wounds, were without opiates; tourniquets were wanting in many instances; stimulants very deficient; concentrated food also scanty; in fact, everything was wanting that wounded men need, except a place to lie down, and the attentions of personally devoted surgeons (without proper stores, however.) The deficiency was greater than usual for two reasons—one, the hurry of the army in passing from a campaign in which everything in the way of supplies was exhausted or lost; the other, the obstruction of the Monocacy, and the want of independent transportation on the part of the Bureau, which would have enabled it to send by the turnpike. Some blame for the non arrival of the medical stores, lies in the fact that of all the surgeons, forty or more sent, no one considered himself charged with the function of hurrying anything forward but himself; the result being, that plenty of surgeons got upon the ground, but almost destitute of necessary appliances; this I also attribute, not so much to the want of zeal on the part of the surgeons, or of ability to recognize the emergency, but to the inability on the part of the Central Bureau to command the necessary transportation. I venture to say, that nearly every barn and hospital, and cluster of wounded over the wide extent of the late military operations, embracing a circle of nearly



thirty miles, was receiving most essential relief from the Commission while the regular medical stores lay at Monocacy Bridge. I solemnly affirm that great loss of life has occurred and will occur, among the wounded, as the direct result of an inability on the part of the medical authorities to furnish, by rapid and independent means of transportation, the surgical and medical appliances needed within the two days immediately subsequent to the battles.

When will our rulers learn wisdom and humanity? I do not ask for the Medical Bureau means of transportation entirely independent of, and above those of the Quartermaster's department, but I do demand such conveyances as shall enable the medical officers, moving with an army in line of battle, to carry forward surgeons and such surgical materials as chloroform, opiates, stimulants and the primary dressings; a few supply carts, in addition to the ordinary medicine wagons would meet almost any emergency. Let such carts be light one-horse wagons upon springs, so constructed as to be easily drawn past or through the army trains that seriously obstruct the approaches to battle-fields. Had Dr. Letterman had under his control one dozen one-horse supply wagons, he could have sent to every part of the field the supplies most in demand. If Government will not give to the Medical Bureau such a train, I insist that *we* must do it. The Commission can have no higher object than to strengthen the hands of our army surgeons who now strive so hard to perform the most exhausting duties with so few appliances.

But I must draw this hasty scrawl to a close. As I said, Mitchell I have ordered back with Harry and Collins to open a depot at Boonesboro'. We now need hospital clothing more than anything else. I should say, send two thousand shirts and drawers to Frederick, fifteen hundred to Boonesboro', and four thousand to Sharpsburgh. As to other supplies, await telegraphic orders; we have now, I think, with the wagons met last night, enough for several days, of food, stimulants, and surgical dressings.

Mr. Platt remains here for the present, his services have been most valuable; we must retain him until the press is over. I shall never cease saying God bless you all for your efforts in sending forward the relief to the wounded.

I cannot close this hasty letter without expressing my sense of obligations to Dr. Letterman for unusual facilities, and to all the surgeons with whom I came in contact, for their uniform courtesy and confidence. The country should be proud of those faithful men, who labor day and night to alleviate the sufferings of the battle, without hope of "honorable mention" or a "brevet," in this world; may they have their reward in the next world, where the fact of having given a cup of cold water to a

suffering human being, will be made the occasion of a never-fading record and an exhaustless blessing.

Yours, most sincerely,

C. R. AGNEW.

#### IV.

NEW YORK, *September 27, 1862.*

DEAR SIR—I have to report that while at Hagerstown, on the 22d, I was applied to by the Medical Director there, Dr. A. K. Smith, for aid to fit up and furnish his hospitals. The floor of the Lyceum and the floor and benches of the court-house were covered with suffering and severely wounded men. Berths or bunks and bedding were urgently needed, and much work was necessary to put the building into proper order. The shortest way of doing this was to hire workmen at once, and for this, money was necessary. As it was perfectly evident that every hour's delay involved severe suffering, and seemed likely, so far as I could form an opinion, to endanger the lives of those most severely hurt, I deemed it right to advance to Dr. Smith the necessary amount from the funds of the Commission, and accordingly deposited six hundred dollars to his credit with the Hagerstown Bank. His memorandum of the application of the money is returned herewith.

Mr. Horace Binney concurred with me as to the propriety of doing this, and I hope my action will be approved by the Executive Committee.

I beg to add that I saw at Hagerstown and Sharpsburgh, and at the hospitals on the field of Antietam creek, the most abundant and gratifying evidences of the activity with which our inspectors and agents were doing their duty, and of the essential service they were rendering the army.

Very respectfully and truly, yours,

GEO. T. STRONG,

Rev. H. W. BELLows, D. D.

*Treasurer.*

#### V.—FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

Under an order from the President of the United States, a national system has been established by the Sanitary Commission for the safe transmission and judicious distribution of articles contributed by the people for the sick and wounded of the army and navy. The system, after being well tried, has been formally approved and recommended by the President, the General-in-Chief, and the Surgeon General. The security it offers against misappropriation is practically perfect, until the contributions are delivered in the hospitals, where they necessarily pass from the control of the Commission. Of more than a million articles sent through one of the largest of its channels of supply, it has been

ascertained that not one hundred have miscarried or been dishonestly used. Discreet and trustworthy agents are constantly employed in visiting all divisions of the army, including those on the southern coast, the Mississippi, and the western frontier, to observe their wants; to direct supplies where they are most needed, and to secure, as far as practicable, their honest use. The Commission does not undertake to deliver articles to individuals, and declines to receive contributions with any restriction as to their destination within the limits of the force employed in the service of the nation, it being one of its secondary objects to strengthen the sentiments of national unity wherever it can come in antagonism with State or local pride.

The distribution of hospital supplies is but a branch of the work of the Commission. It employs the best professional talent which can be obtained in the country to aid its larger purpose—to do all that is possible for the health and vigor of our fighting men, to lighten their burdens, reduce their encumbrances, and to sustain their spirits under the privations and hardships which are an essential part of successful warfare.

For this purpose, contributions to its treasury are solicited. They may be directed to the Treasurer, G. T. Strong, Esq., 68 Wall street, New York.

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*Commissioners under appointment from the President of the United States.*

The Rev. HENRY W. BELLOWES, D. D., New York.

Prof. A. D. BACHE, L. L. D., Washington,

GEORGE W. CULLUM, U. S. A., Washington.

ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, U. S. A., Washington.

ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A., Washington.

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D., New York.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D., New York.

SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D., Boston.

CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D., New York.

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., New York.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., Cleveland.

GEORGE T. STRONG, New York.

HORACE BINNEY, Jr., Philadelphia.

The Right Rev. THOS. M. CLARK, D. D., Providence, Rhode Island.

The Hon. JOSEPH HOLT, Kentucky.

R. W. BURNETT, Cincinnati.

The Hon. MARK SKINNER, Chicago.

FREDERICK LAW OLNSTED, New York.

Contributions of suitable supplies for the sick and wounded will be received AT THE ROOMS OF THE WOMAN'S CENTRAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION, No. 10 THIRD AVENUE, COOPER UNION, NEW YORK.



## CENTRAL OFFICE, SANITARY COMMISSION,

WASHINGTON, *September 20, 1862.*

The Sanitary Commission, at the request of General Halleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, most earnestly advises against the practice of sending presents to soldiers of articles which it is supposed will add to the convenience of their camp-life. To the knowledge of the Commission, many hundred tons of such presents are now piled uselessly in storehouses and yards, and upon old camp-grounds; while thousands have probably been destroyed to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, and but a small part of all that have been received by those to whom they were addressed have been of the smallest value to them, except as tokens of the affectionate interest of their friends. For this purpose, letters and such other small and light articles as can be transmitted by mail would have been much better. Large gifts occasion serious practical mischief—men and officers being naturally adverse to throwing them away—they add to the encumbrances, which are a chief cause of the excessive fatigue and thus of the sickness of the soldier. Volunteers almost universally, until they learn better by dear-bought experience, undertake to carry an excessive amount of clothing. To this cause, and to the excessive baggage of their officers, some of the severest losses of the Union forces in the present war are attributed by the highest military authority. But even when successful in battle, the attempt to secure comfort by the possession of an unusual amount of clothing is nearly always frustrated; the heaviest knapsack being thrown away at the first long-continued hard march, while the light one is retained, and the long and heavily laden wagon train cut off, when the light and short one is protected. Similar observations apply to regimental hospitals. The hospital of a regiment in the field should be supplied with nothing but the barest necessities for the temporary treatment of the sick, who, in all serious cases, are removed as fast as possible to general hospitals, where the supplies of the regiment are not available. An excessive amount of regimental hospital stores and conveniences is a cruelty to the sick and wounded, for it occasions the frequent detention and separation from the regiment of the new articles essential to the usefulness of the surgeon. The Commission has from the first protested against a common error of surgeons in this respect, as well as against the greater evil of the common attempt of the volunteers to carry into the field too many of the means of comfort to which they are habituated in civil life. In compliance with the request of General Halleck, this appeal is addressed to those by whose mistaken kindness both these evils are believed to have been greatly aggravated and sustained.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, *General Secretary.*

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 49.

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## NOTE.

The attention of the Sanitary Commission has been, for several months past, directed to the subject of a timely provision for the soldiers disabled in the war, after peace shall be restored. The question is full of difficulties. Very little information or guidance is to be obtained from books. The Commission, learning that S. G. Perkins, Esq., of Boston, was about visiting Europe, and being acquainted with his interest in similar questions, resolved to avail itself, if possible, of his talents and opportunities, to collect information by personal visits to all the chief Military Hospitals in Europe. Mr. Perkins accepted the appointment, and sailed a month ago for France, where his investigations will commence. The letter of the President to Mr. Perkins, is printed, simply to draw the attention of fore-looking men to the subject. It will be sent only to such gentlemen as are supposed to be interested in the matter; and they are earnestly requested to communicate, by letter, any suggestions in regard to the question, in any of its departments, to the President of the Sanitary Commission, at 498 Broadway, New York.

October 13th, 1862.

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NEW YORK, August 15th, 1862.

STEPHEN G. PERKINS, Esq.:

DEAR SIR—The Sanitary Commission are much exercised with the subject of the future of the disabled soldiers of this war. They calculate that, if it continue a year longer, not less than a hundred thousand men, of impaired vigor, maimed, or broken in body and spirit, will be thrown on the country. Add to this a tide of another hundred thousand men, demoralized for civil life by military habits, and it is easy to see what a trial to the order, industry, and security of society,

and what a burden to its already strained resources, there is in store for us. It is, in our judgment, to the last degree important, to begin now, to create a public opinion which shall conduce to, or compel the adoption of, the wisest policy on the part of our municipal and town governments, in respect of disabled soldiers—so as to discourage all favor to mendicancy—all allowance to any exceptional license to those who have been soldiers—all disposition for invalids to throw themselves, any further than is necessary, on the support and protection of society. You, who have paid so much attention to social science, know how easily loose, indulgent, and destructive notions creep into communities, under the name and purpose of humanity, and what temptations of a sentimental kind there will be, to favor a policy which will undermine self-respect, self-support, and the true American pride of personal independence.

In view of this, the Sanitary Commission is now studying the general subject of the proper method of dealing with our disabled soldiers at the close of the war, and, as far as possible, prior to that. The few guiding principles thus far excogitated, appear to be these :

1. As little outside interference with natural laws and self-help as possible.

2. As much moral and other encouragement and strengthening of the natural reliances as possible.

3. The utmost endeavor to promote the healthy absorption of the invalid class into the homes, and into the ordinary industry of the country.

In opposition to these principles will be the rivalry and competition of States, in generosity to disabled soldiers—similar to that which has appeared in running bounties to recruits up to an excessive and injurious height ; the attempt to make political capital out of the sympathy of the public with the invalids of the war—issuing in over-legislation and over-action—with much bad and demoralizing sentimentality—and, worst of all, a public disposition to treat this whole class as a class with a right to be idle, or to beg, or to claim exemption from the ordinary rules of life.



To illustrate what I mean by interference with natural laws, I should regard any general scheme for herding the invalids of the war into State or National Institutions, as a most dangerous blow to domestic order, to the sacredness of home affections and responsibilities, as well as a weakening of what may be termed the law of local sympathy. Their natural kindred are the first protectors of our invalids; the local community the next; and the State the last. We must exhaust the two first before drawing on the last; or, rather, we must cherish and sustain the two first by every possible means before resorting to the last, which in the end will require to be heavily drawn upon. This is not a matter of mere pecuniary consideration. It is not to save the State or National Treasury, but to encourage and save the spirit of independence, to preserve the self-respect, and the homely graces and virtues of the People, on which all the real dignity and strength of the Nation rest.

To accomplish this result—i. e., to restore the large proportion of all our invalids to their homes, there to live and labor according to their strength, sustained and blessed by their own kindred—we must have a sound, a generous, a wisely considered pension law; and this pension law must be rid of all humiliating or enslaving character. It must be considered as the payment of what has been earned, and its payment should be made regular, punctual, immediate, and with as little loss by agencies and obstructions as possible. Moreover, the right to a pension should not rest exclusively on visible wounds. Broken constitutions, or impaired vigor, traceable unmistakeably to military service, should entitle to a pension.

To employ to the utmost the law of local sympathy, the disabled and invalid soldiers should be encouraged in every way to settle in the neighborhoods from which they came, and be thrown as much as possible on the fraternal responsibility of their neighbors for employment and sympathetic aid. A sense of local or communal responsibility to leave the light employments in every village or hamlet to these

invalids, should be cherished. The emulations of towns could be depended upon for this, were a proper start given to it by a judicious amount of writing on the subject in the leading journals. In London, by some recent law, one-legged or one-armed men have some special privileges, as ticket-takers, parcel-bearers, messengers, &c. (I hope you will find out, when abroad, precisely what it is.) I am confident that if we begin right we can induce a most extensive and most wholesome re-absorption of the invalids of the war into the civil life of the nation, to the actual advantage of its affections, its patriotism, and its honest pride. But the subject will need careful guidance.

After every thing has been done to discover and appropriate all light forms of industry, throughout the whole circle of trades suited to maimed and invalid men, there will still remain those whom the small support of a pension, eked out by home protection or local sympathy and co-operation, will not adequately care for. The large body of foreigners, the reckless and unrelated, those who have hitherto been afloat, with such as are most seriously disabled, or have least natural force to provide for themselves—these must be collected in National Institutions. We don't want a vast network of soldiers' poorhouses scattered through the land, in which these brave fellows will languish away dull and wretched lives. Nor do we want petty State asylums, to be quarrelled about and made the subject of party politics. We want to economize our battered heroes, and to take care of them in such a way as to maintain the military spirit and the national pride; to nurse the memories of the war, and to keep in the eye of the Nation the price of its liberties. After reducing to the smallest number this class, to be kept in the hands of the State, how best to deal with it is the chief problem connected with this topic; and the principal sources of light are first, general principles, and next, the experience of other nations—for we have had next to none in our own country.

Of the general principles, a few occur to me at once:

1. Justice and policy both demand that these Institutions should be National, and not State Institutions. A war against

State pretensions should not end without strengthening in every way Federal influence. This war is a struggle for *National* existence. We have found a *National* heart, and life, and body. Now, let us cherish it. I know that desperate efforts will be made to build up State asylums for these invalids. Let us judiciously discourage the idea from the start.

2. The Institutions should honor both military and civil life. They should be military in their organization, control, dress, drill, and maintain the antecedents of the war from which they spring. The care of the trophies, arms, cannon, &c., might be assigned to them. They should be made nurseries of our military glory, and should, in some way, be skilfully co-ordinated with the popular heart, so as to feel, and to animate, the national sentiment. At the same time they should be industrial—encouraging and allowing such an amount and variety of labor as would discourage listlessness and monotony, and prevent the feeling of utter dependence.

How these institutions are to grow up, is doubtful ; whether *by degrees, as a necessity*, or by bold legislation from the start.

We have thought, as a Commission, of asking the Government for the control and care of disabled soldiers from the time they leave the Hospital as patients, and begin their convalescence, to the period when they are finally discharged ; say four months on the average ; then, to create special Hospitals (with Government funds) for these convalescents, of a temporary character ; to find out the homes, and favor the establishment in their own local communities of all able to be thus provided for ; having an eye, through our village affiliated associations, to their well-being and future career, and aiding in every way the success of the just principles laid down in the earlier part of this letter.

Then, retaining, partly at our own expense, (that is, out of the spontaneous bestowments of the people,) all those disabled men who are the proper subjects for permanent asylums, finally to inaugurate a great asylum, with branches, partly under our own control and management, partly under that of the Government, which by degrees should embrace



and embody every wise, humane, and patriotic idea suited to the case. Our dependence for success in such a scheme—very crude as yet—would be the possession of more and earlier thought, better and fuller information, a profounder and wiser plan—such a plan as would recommend itself—and which on statement would so engage the consent and affections of the people, as to secure its adoption by Congress.

If this matter be left to politicians, or be hurried through Congress by busy men, it will want all profound merits. It will be sure to violate our American principles, to wound political economy, and to botch the whole idea. If, on the other hand, we can slowly mature a wise, ripe plan, it may become a germ of the utmost beneficence to the soldiers and to the nation.

But why am I laying all this unasked, before you?

It is time I answered that question. I have long been acquainted with your familiarity with subjects of this nature, and the fitness of your mind to contemplate and digest them into form. I heard that you were just going abroad to spend some time. I was persuaded that you must carry with you the deepest solicitude for your country, and desire to serve it. Now, dear sir, there is a great opportunity to render the country, and the soldiers, a serious service. I have spoken of the light which the experience of foreign nations casts on this subject of invalid asylums. We are very anxious to have a careful report on the subject of the foreign institutions for the care of invalid soldiers, before the next meeting of Congress. And at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sanitary Commission recently held at my house, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Olmsted, and passed:

“*Resolved*, That S. G. Perkins, Esq., be requested to study the military pension and invalid system of the principal European nations, visiting the more important establishments in which invalid soldiers are maintained, and to report his observations to the Commission, with the conclusions of his judgment in regard to an invalid and pension system for the disabled soldiers of the present war.”

I hope you will consent to do this work for us. I know no man so well fitted, and I really think it can be laid upon you as a clear call of Divine Providence. Nothing was said on the subject of remuneration. We are all volunteers in this good work. But I think there is no doubt that any necessary expenses, incurred in this service, extra to your natural expenses, would be cheerfully reimbursed by this Commission; and, if this is a point of interest or importance, I will have action taken upon it at the earliest moment.

I have not felt at liberty to withhold this communication, although, since the resolution was passed, instructing me to make it, so serious a calamity has fallen upon you. If the sympathy of numerous friends can alleviate your great trial, you will not want much consolation in so profound a sorrow.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully and cordially,

Yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,  
*President of the Sanitary Commission.*





# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 50.

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## WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO WHO STAY AT HOME.

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The war has just been recast. There was recently a period in which the people stood, in a measure, dismayed by the failures of the summer campaign, the call for a new army, the first assessment of the war-tax, and the resurging tide of the old army, sweeping up the Ohio and the Potomac, sending its wounded before it and leaving its dead behind. There was a moment of reconsideration, if not of hesitation. The cost of war had not been fairly counted—the horror of war had not been fairly seen. It had been entered upon in excitement, almost with a pleasurable fervor. Now, in a moment of disappointment, depression, and mourning, the full cost was pondered, the full horror looked in the face. Not sullenly—not in passion. Never was there less of rancor in a war; there is no fear here of extermination nor of subjugation; there is no phrensy. If there ever was a vein of that sort, it ran out on the Chickahominy.

Yet, we are at this moment re-entering upon the war with a patient zeal of preparation much more indicative of resolution than the enthusiastic tumult with which we first moved in it. Are we ruled in this by a mere delusion of patriotism, or by deep common sense and the generous instincts of a true heroism?

Generous instincts which look toward and co-operate with great existing principles, declare forever that in Union is strength—strength not of communities alone, but of every man to best carry out the requirements of his nature and his God.

Sound common sense declares the wastefulness of disunited policies where permanent interests are so inseparably united as must be those of all men who after us are to occupy this land together.

For the sake of mankind on this continent we must not have the experience of Europe repeated here ; we must go on and on, and ever on, with this one war, until such an end is reached as will save constant recurrence of wars ; we must make any necessary sacrifices to firmly and finally establish here the policy of co-operation and brotherly unity, against the policies which from time to time will arise through the impatient ambition, the instability or perversity of this or that part of the people of the land.

A conviction of the grand economy of the Union and of the necessity of sacrificing local, personal, and transitory interests to the policy of the Union, being thus our highest justification in pursuing the terrible path of war, the same conviction should possess and control us in all we have to do about the war. Most evidently it should do so in all movements of the people to send aid and comfort from their homes to those who have left homes and comforts to face the common enemy.

At the outset of the war a body of men was commissioned by the President of the United States for purposes of inquiry and advice with regard to the sanitary interests of the forces to be employed in it. A precedent for this course had been established by the British Government in the Crimean war, by which it was known that thousands of lives were saved. This body is still pursuing the purposes for which it was originally consti-

tuted; and for which it was necessary that it should maintain direct confidential observation through responsible and expert agents of every portion of the field, the hospitals, and the transports.

Observing a sad waste of the voluntary supplies intended for the sick of the army, it was early suggested that the advantages of the organization which it had thus to establish, should be made also available for the better direction and ministration of these supplies. In the determination of arrangements for this purpose, no part of the duty undertaken had more anxious consideration than that of guarding against the careless, willful, or ignorant perversion of the one sacred intention of those who made these offerings—the relief of the sick and the wounded. The measures adopted for this purpose cannot be discussed publicly with advantage. The honorable names of the men composing the Commission are the public's best pledges that these measures are as perfect as, in their judgment, they can be made. It is impossible to have an efficient system of supply without risk of some waste. The Commission vigilantly watches the goods placed in its care until they reach the soldier needing them. Having done so, it has no right and no power to say that they shall not be sold or thrown away by the soldier when he no longer needs them. This is the foundation, and the only foundation of many reports which are wickedly circulated to the discouragement of those whose hearts are in this work. The fact that a certain amount of waste is inevitable should no more be allowed to lessen their generosity than should apprehension that the crows will pull up a portion of his corn, induce a farmer to lessen the amount of seed to be planted.

To meet the new duty assumed by the Commission, extensive arrangements for the collection, assortment, and conveyance of goods were made, and at suitable points near the army in the field, stations of distribution were established, in



charge of capable agents. When necessary, independent means of transportation had also to be secured. All this having been done, necessarily at a large cost, the only point which remains to be secured is, that the people should avail themselves of the advantages it offers. It is perfectly certain that supplies sent through this channel will have greater value, on an average, than they can have, sent in any other way, and that in proportion as the people unite to make use of this channel, the greater will be the value of each individual article sent through it.

There is no time, when relief has a tithe of the value that it has when presented immediately after a battle. In the recent campaign in Maryland, the agents of the Commission, more than once, were distributing from its stores to the wounded on the field, while engagements were yet in progress; and within three days after the battle of Antietam, more than forty of its chosen agents were on the ground, systematically employed in the same duty; and succor, in one form or another, had been extended by them to *eight thousand* sufferers. Among the materials distributed, there were some of the first importance, and of which there was at this time scarcely any supply on the ground except that brought through the Commission, such as morphine and chloroform. Within a week ten thousand shirts and drawers, five hundred bottles of stimulants, two thousand sponges, several tons of soup, and other nice articles of nutriment; many barrels of lint and bandages, and a large quantity of assorted articles, expressly adapted to the purpose, had been taken from the reserved stores of the Commission, and delivered in person by its selected agents at the hospitals in which the wounded had been collected. All practicable pains were taken to prevent this distribution from being made indiscriminately, unfairly, or wastefully. Six professional inspectors were employed in visiting the hospitals and in directing relief

where the demand was most pressing ; and when supplies were not administered to the wounded directly by the agents of the Commission, a surgeon or other officer was made responsible under his own signature for their delivery to those who needed them.

It may be said with confidence, that all the goods which the Commission were able to bring upon this battle-field were thus made, in their life-saving power, a hundred fold more valuable than they would have been if they had been thrown into other channels, and delivered with only the usual advantages of those who operate independently of the Commission.

The Commission has been censured for attempting to accumulate supplies, and for holding them in reserve at a distance from the seat of war, and gifts have been withheld from it on this account, and sent to those who were eager to bestow them with thoughtless liberality wherever a soldier could be found disabled for a time from duty. Nothing can be more certain than that had all taken this course, the lives of hundreds of brave men, each dear to some fireside, would have been lost at Antietam, which have now been saved. This will not be regarded as an extravagant statement when it is known that there were thirty regiments of one State alone, which went into this battle absolutely without the smallest particle of medical or surgical stores in the hands of their surgeons ; that the Government supplies sent out for their relief did not reach the ground till the third day after the battle, and that one of the largest of the field hospitals was provided by the Commission, not only with subsistence stores, bedding, clothing, and medicine, but for several days with the only medical attendance which the patients in it received.

Let the full meaning of this be felt, and let it be remembered that, in what was done here, every contributor to the treasury or the stores of the Commission had part, as much as if the aid

thus given had been tendered in person to the sufferers on the field; perhaps even more so, for, placed in the hands of men instructed and trained how best to use it, each gift received a value which it might not have had in the hands of the contributor. It will be seen, then, that in proportion as the principle of Union is adhered to, in the bestowment of these gifts, their value is increased, and that in every departure from this principle there is a waste of that which may otherwise be to the saving of life.

The impulse may be a natural one which seeks to know even the individual person upon whom our gifts are bestowed, and to give them by the hands of some friend or neighbor; but it must be obvious that it is, to say the least, a higher form of benevolence and of patriotism which asks only to have a reasonable assurance that the soldiers of the Union will be helped by our offerings, when and where they most need our help, and that it is only by the exercise of this larger benevolence that measures of relief can be taken at all adequate to the necessities of the army, or commensurate with the grandeur of its purposes.

It is unquestionably true, also, that under a system of State distribution some of the soldiers in the hospitals, which would come under the convenient reach of this shortened arm, might receive more comforts and luxuries than they would if they shared with others in an equal distribution of the supplies turned in from all loyal States to a common channel. But what real patriot can wish or be willing, even, to have soldiers from his State, or from his town, or his kindred, enjoying extra comforts and luxuries, while wounded men by their side, or on the distant battle-field, are, perhaps, in actual stress of life for want of the very supplies which a better distribution would secure to them?



In order to carry out this more generous and efficient method, hospital supplies *must* be accumulated at certain points where they can be instantly commanded, and from which they can be transferred in large and assorted quantities wherever the most urgent calls are made for them. For this purpose, most persons should become simply contributors to societies, which have the duty to send forward what they collect to such convenient points, for assortment, storage, and transshipment, as may be established by the Commission. Societies for this purpose should exist in every town, village, and neighborhood, and should be sustained with steady zeal, as a duty of no light importance. All such societies are really to be considered as societies for the propagation of the true faith of the Union. For to say that the people of the loyal States, or of any of them, move with one mind, or that there is among them a universal spirit of self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of their country, is to use a figure of speech, which never could apply literally to any people, least of all to a civilized people under institutions favorable to individuality of character. Some are slow, some are quick, to see the magnitude and imminence of the common duty. Some are too much absorbed in special interests, some are still under the influence of former misinformation, and hear and read of everything that has occurred through walls of old prejudice; one cause or another obstructs the truth with all, and whatever obstructs the truth, hinders each man and woman from the performance of a duty which the country needs. Ardent patriotism, moreover, can live in but few minds without expression or opportunity of manifestation. It will subside if it have nothing to do. If the war is a mere matter of gossip, it calls for no conscious exercise of patriotism, it prepares for and encourages no patriotic spirit. Hence, even associations of women, quick to feel and earnest to act, though formed with the avowed purpose only of contributing such aid of domestic

comforts as may be available for the soldiers in field and hospital, have really a value of an entirely different kind, in that they serve the purpose of keeping love of the Union alive through healthy, social contact, expression, and labor, and each must be a center of patriotic devotion, and of the dissemination of truth favorable to patriotic devotion, radiating through communities. In this light they were regarded by Washington in the Revolution. In this light they should be regarded by every patriot now.

The recent battles East and West have completely exhausted the reserved stock of the Commission, and it is found now not only impracticable to accumulate supplies, but impossible to meet even urgent demands daily made by hospitals within sight of the very dome of the Capitol, and growing out of needs, the existence of which, as has been well ascertained, casts no censure upon the faithfulness or efficiency of the surgeons in charge. Let it here be fairly understood, that the Commission did in its origin assume to itself, as its first and most important duty, never under any circumstances to be remitted, to strive by every means within its reach to secure to the soldier the full measure of whatever he was entitled to receive from the Government. In a hospital it is desirable that the patient should be dependent upon the surgeon for the supply of his wants, for whatever interferes with this dependence interferes with the surgeon's control of his patient, and whatever interferes with this control, weakens his sense or habit of responsibility. Whatever, again, lessens the dependence of the surgeon upon his superiors for the proper supply of the hospital wants, lessens their control of him, and injures the unity, and consequently the efficiency of the whole Department. The question, therefore, has often been weighed and reweighed, whether a period in the war would not arrive when it would no longer be consistent with the purpose of the Commission, in any manner, to relieve the

surgeons from an absolute dependence upon the regular sources of Government supply for anything needed for the sick and wounded soldiers under their care. Whatever is yet to be hoped of the future, however, there can be no question that such a period has not yet been reached ; nor is it likely that it will be until, at least, some very radical changes shall have been effected in the army and militia laws of the country, and a body of fully 3,000 surgeons, honest and capable, have been educated in the technicalities which are justly required to be observed for the sake of securing proper accountability. We certainly are not yet near this, notwithstanding the comprehensive views and earnest endeavors which characterize the present administration of the Medical Department. The conviction is unavoidable, that, in numberless cases, the balance of advantages to be secured, clearly justifies the demand for volunteer aid.

Hence the necessity for a carefully guarded yet elastic system of distribution, resting upon large accumulations. Such accumulations cannot be obtained, except the people shall be generally willing to forego the gratification of those impulses which allow personal and sectional feeling to narrow and determine the channels of beneficence and patriotism.

In view of the immensely increased worth, in the absolute saving of the lives of our soldiers, which the system of the Commission has given to the benefactions of the people, as demonstrated at Antietam, at South Mountain, at Manassas, at Cedar Mountain, at Winchester, at Malvern, at Seven Pines, at West Point, at Williamsburgh, at Corinth, at Shiloh, at Fort Donelson, at New Orleans, at Roanoke Island, at Newbern, and at Port Royal ; in view of the obvious fact that such articles as are most needed are becoming more scarce and valuable ; in view of the large force now taking the field ; and in view of the sterner spirit with which the people plainly demand that



the war shall henceforth be conducted, it is hoped that all good men and women who are not privileged to take a more active part, will lay hold here, and try to put this business everywhere, fairly and squarely on the same common ground as that of the dear cause itself for which our brothers are pouring out their blood. In union is strength. In disunion is weakness and waste. Can we not, in this trial of our nation, learn to wholly lay aside that poor disguise of narrowness of purpose and self-conceit, which takes the name of local interest and public spirit, but whose fruit is manifest in secession? Distrust of generous policies, and want of faith in principles, with an indolent dependence on leaders and parties, have been the national sins of which this war brings the plain and direct retribution. God grant us grace to turn from them. Let us remember that, while we are called to lay our household offerings upon the bloody altar of the war, we are also called to bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

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The plan of the Relief Service of the Sanitary Commission, is—

1. To secure, as far as practicable, reserves of hospital and ambulance supplies, in order to be prepared to act with efficiency in emergencies.
2. To cover in its work, as far as practicable, the whole field of the war, dispensing supplies wherever most needed, to all in the service of the Union, without preference of State, arm, or rank, army or navy, volunteer or regular.
3. To study the whole field, by means of carefully selected and trained medical inspectors, in order to determine where supplies are most needed, and to watch against their misuse.

4. While administering to all pressing needs of the suffering, to carefully avoid relieving the officials in charge in any unnecessary degree from their responsibility, but to do all that is possible to secure his full rights to the soldier, unable to help himself.

5. To cordially co-operate, as far as practicable, with the hospital service of the Government, endeavoring to supplement, never to supplant it.

Societies, churches, schools, and all other organizations, the members of which cherish the principles upon which this plan is founded, are cordially invited to avail themselves of it in any action which they may see fit to take for the benefit of the sick and wounded.

1st. Contributing Aid Societies will send supplies when they see fit, through the channels established by the Commission.

2d. Corresponding Aid Societies must be devoted to the collection and preparation of supplies, to be sent to the soldier exclusively through the Commission.

3. Branch Aid Societies are chartered by the Commission, to be established at points suitable for obtaining supplies, intended for distribution by the system of the Commission, from States or large districts. They must be responsible for the necessary labor and expenses of this duty, and must account exactly and punctually to those from whom supplies are received, and to the Commission. As the Commission are trustees for the judicious distribution of the gifts of the people to the soldiers, the Branches are intermediate trustees for collecting, assorting, packing, storing, and forwarding the gifts. In emergencies, the Branch Societies are often called upon to assist the Commission even more directly in the performance of its duties.

Branches and Corresponding Societies will be supplied with the bulletins and all other publications of the Commission as soon as issued.

For further information apply to

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary.*

Washington, October 21st, 1862.

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Commissioners under appointment from the President of the United States: The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D.; Prof. A. D. Bache, LL. D.; George W. Cullum, U. S. A.; Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A.; Robert C. Wood, M. D., U. S. A.; William H. Van Buren, M. D.; Wolcott Gibbs, M. D.; Samuel G. Howe, M. D.; Cornelius R. Agnew, M. D.; Elisha Harris, M. D.; J. S. Newberry, M. D.; George T. Strong; Horace Binney, Jr.; the Right Rev. Thomas M. Clark, D. D.; the Hon. Joseph Holt; R. W. Burnett; the Hon. Mark Skinner; Frederick Law Olmsted.

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# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 51.

## Revised General Instructions for Camp Inspections.

NOTE.—It is assumed that the Inspector to whom this is addressed has undertaken to systematically visit a specified portion of the army; that he is familiar with the *Army Regulations*; with the *Report on Military Hygiene and Therapeutics*, (Doc. A,) and the Commission's *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*, (Doc. C.) The portion of the army to be visited is supposed to be mainly in a state of rest, and in camp. If it is in movement, or about to move, or if an engagement is immediately anticipated, or has just occurred, and the officers are therefore likely to be occupied with matters of an unusual and peremptory character, the duties of the Inspector to which the present instructions refer must be suspended.

References.—Reference is made to the revised edition of the *Army Regulations*—that published pursuant to the order of the Secretary of War, dated August 10, 1861.

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,  
Washington, D. C.,

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To .....

### I.—INTRODUCTION, ETIQUETTE, AND DISCIPLINE.

In the performance of your duty as an Inspector of the Sanitary Commission, it is of the highest importance that you should, under all circumstances, be careful to show your respect for the Regulations of discipline, order, and rank in the army. To this end, in the first place, take pains to approach the inferior by way of the superior officer, and only with a formal or implied approval and endorsement of your purpose by the latter.

Unquestionably, the first of all conditions of health in the army is strict discipline. Do all, therefore, in your power to encourage and strengthen a good purpose in this respect;

do all in your power to sustain it. Honor in your own conduct the strictest rules of military etiquette, and let it be seen that you expect them to be stringently enforced. Let it be known that you consider no disease so destructive to an army as laxity of discipline. Demand, wherever you properly can do so, that the standard of the volunteers shall be at least as high as that of the regulars in this respect, and reprove any intimation that this is not to be attempted.

I have been mistaken in your character if it is necessary to assure you that the most determined enforcement of discipline is consistent with an ordinary habit of friendly and confidential comradeship between officers and men. The cases where this is permanently impossible, without blame attaching to the officers, are exceptional.

## II.—RELATION WITH REGIMENTAL AND COMPANY COMMANDERS.

On arriving at the camp of a regiment, ask for the officer of the day, and, stating your business, request him to present you to the colonel or commanding officer. Exhibit your credentials to the latter, and, if the opportunity is favorable, endeavor at once to obtain his confidence and co-operation in your business. Request him to introduce you to the captains, or to send another officer to do so, and endeavor in the same manner to establish a friendly acquaintance with them. At the same time, scrupulously avoid placing yourself on terms with them, or under any obligations, which you may feel will embarrass you in the exercise of your duties.

## III.—DUTY OF COMMANDERS OF COMPANIES.

The most dangerous idea is often held by volunteer captains of the functions of their office, it being derived apparently from the custom of the militia in peace, when the privates are living at their homes, and the captain has little other duty than to see to the drill of the men and marshal

them on parades. In our military organization the company is the unit of the army, and the commanding officers of companies are the principal agents of all the administrative duties of the organization. If a major or a lieutenant (not acting as a commander) neglects his duties, the body to which he is attached becomes simply in a certain degree less effective. If a company commander neglects his duty, the men may starve for all that any one else is to do. The captain should be, as has often been said, "the father of his company." Nothing, however small, which affects the comfort, health, strength, and efficiency of his men is beneath his attention. He is the official registrar, and agent of all necessary communication between them and the source of their supplies, as well as with the superior command. He must leave the drill of his company chiefly to his subalterns and non-commissioned officers, for if he pays all necessary attention to his administrative duties, he will have no time to give more than a general superintendence to a task which, in its detail, involves but little exercise of judgment. Upon the thoroughness with which the captains attend to their duty, both in regard to their companies, and, each in his turn, as the officer of the day, superintending the police of the regiment, its health mainly depends. You are, therefore, instructed to make yourself acquainted with the captains, and to cultivate such relations with them as will command a hearty reception for such instruction as you may see occasion to give them.

#### V.—IMPORTANCE OF SANITARY REGULATIONS TO BE ILLUSTRATED BY STATISTICAL FACTS.

If necessary, you will point out to them the danger to which men, in military service, are exposed by neglect of sanitary laws, and impress on them the great practical importance of the business with which you are charged. To do this effectively, you should be prepared with a few statistical facts from military history, as, for instance, with the proportion of deaths from disease to deaths from casualties of battle during our Mexican campaign, more than 7 to 1. (See also



statistics of the Crimean and other campaigns, in the *Report on Military Hygiene and Therapeutics.*)

#### V.—INSPECTION OF COMPANY QUARTERS.

Proceed thoroughly to scrutinize the camps, visiting the tents of one company after another, having, if possible, the captains of each company with you as you examine its tents. Do not too much hasten this part of your work, as it will probably be your best opportunity of serving the cause in which you are engaged. The questions of the "Camp Inspection Return," with which you will have been furnished, indicate the more important points which should engage your attention. You are not expected to write answers to all these questions while walking through the camp; after you are familiar with them, indeed, it will be best to avoid unnecessary reference to them, especially in the camps of regiments which have been visited more than once before. Until then, however, you are advised to follow the "Return" in your enquiries somewhat closely, regarding it as a memorandum of points in which it is generally desirable that instruction should be given.

Probably in nearly all cases you will be able to trace whatever is wrong (sanitarily considered) to a neglect of some of the requirements of the Regulations, as, for instance, to ¶ 93, which demands of captains "the utmost attention to the cleanliness of their men, as to their persons, clothing, accoutrements and equipments, and also to their quarters or tents," or to ¶ 116, which requires captains to attend carefully to the messing and economy of their respective companies; to visit kitchens and inspect kettles daily, and colonels to make frequent inspections of kitchens and messes; or ¶ 101, which requires non-commissioned officers to see that all the privates properly wash their hands and faces, and comb their hair.

VI.—PREVENTION OF DISEASE POSSIBLE; SUPPRESSION DIFFICULT  
AND UNCERTAIN.

Endeavor by every means in your power to remind the officers of these orders, and of the necessity of their strict obedience to them, to the safety and credit of the regiment. Explain to them that they are based upon a universal military experience, that disastrous consequences inevitably follow the neglect of such precautions as they are intended to secure. Let them know that, although the outbreak of malignant or epidemic disease in camps and quarters can be almost certainly prevented, it can seldom be suppressed after having once broken out, by any measure, however energetic, and never without great destruction of life. Point out to them the various sources of mischief that are to be anticipated, and explain in what way defects in camp police, ventilation, drainage, cooking, &c., are sure to operate injuriously, especially in the destruction of the *esprit du corps* and *morale* of the soldier.

VII.—COOKING ARRANGEMENTS.

From an examination of the tents of each company, pass to its kitchen. Examine the cooking utensils, the fuel—which is generally extravagantly wasted—and the rations which have been drawn. If there is an opportunity, taste the cooked food, and criticise the cooking. Endeavor to stimulate an ambition to make wholesome and palatable food with the existing rations, by a skillful method of cooking with the simple utensils furnished by Government and the camp fire. Every soldier should be a good camp cook, and he is not a good camp cook who requires a cooking stove or a large assortment of utensils. As a great variety of cooking stoves intended for camps are in use, when you meet with these, it will be well to notice the relative value of the different patterns as tested by experience. But do not encourage the opinion that any of them, or anything not provided for by Government, is necessary to the comfort or

efficiency of the soldier. Foster a spirit of simplicity, frugality, and hardihood in this as in all things.

#### VIII.—QUARTERMASTER AND COMMISSARY DEPARTMENTS.

Subsequently, you will call on the quartermaster and commissary, and investigate the method of making requisitions, (these should come from the captains in the first place, and be "consolidated" by the colonel: see forms 13 and 14, Army Reg., p. 267;) of receiving and accounting for supplies; of dividing the rations for companies; of subdividing for individuals; and again, of dividing with reference to time, (so that ten days' allowance shall not be exhausted in nine, &c.) If you hear complaint of insufficient food, look closely at these points, for it is unquestionable that, with honesty and a moderate degree of providence, there will always be more than enough. (See ¶ 205, Revised Army Reg., p. 36; also see General Orders of the War Department, No. 82, Sept. 23, 1861.)

With regard to the important matter of regimental and company funds, the queries of the Return sufficiently indicate your duties. The rations provided by Government do, and necessarily must, exceed the wants of the men. If less, the soldier would suffer; to be such in quantity as to exactly meet his wants, is, it is obvious, practically impossible; they must then be in excess. This excess, when saved, forms the basis of "funds"—regimental, company, and hospital. Where these funds are not established, either the excess must be wasted, or the savings be diverted from their legitimate use, namely, "the benefit of the enlisted men of the companies."

If the regimental Council of Administration is regularly convened by the commanding officer of the regiment, and if the regimental fund is properly organized, and the balances periodically distributed to the several companies, it is obvious that company funds would have been organized, at least partially.



## IX.—SUTLER.

Give attention to the sutler's store. A sutler should be engaged for each regiment, and the regulations prescribed in the Articles of War (Art. 29) and the Army Regulations (§ 211 to 219, p. 37,) stringently enforced upon him. He should be required to keep every essential article for a healthy soldier's comfort, not provided by the quartermaster, such as brushes, blacking, needles and thread, pipes and tobacco, also a limited supply of under-clothing, and he should not be allowed to offer anything likely to prove unwholesome to the men, such as green fruit and leathery pies. Where diarrhoea prevails, both the sutler and itinerant venders should be sharply looked after in this respect. If the sutler's list of prices is not conspicuously posted, you will urge that the requirements of the Regulations in this regard be forthwith observed.

## X.—RELATIONS WITH REGIMENTAL SURGEON.

Having obtained an introduction in your official capacity to the regimental surgeon, it will not generally be difficult for you to gain his confidence and good will, for your duty will lead you to magnify his office, and if he properly appreciates its responsibilities and difficulties, he will value the service you will be able to render him.

## XI.—DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF SURGEON.

It is the duty of the surgeon to point out whatever is unfavorable to the health of the regiment, and to suggest the proper remedy. You should encourage him to make and to persevere in making such suggestions, and wherever possible, consistently with your judgment, should add the weight of your own influence to his advice. You may find it necessary to remind the surgeon that he becomes responsible for the existence and continuance of any unjustifiable sanitary condition pertaining to the camp, or to the management of the regiment, against which he does not perseveringly expostulate.

It is difficult to define the rights and the duties of regimental surgeons, because these vary so much with circumstances. The medical and surgical provision for a regiment on detached service of a special kind should be altogether different from that of a regiment quartered with many others in the immediate vicinity of a general hospital. The Regulations were not formed with reference to large armies in the field, and are not perfectly adapted to the circumstances in which our volunteer surgeons at present find themselves. A patient study of their provisions will, nevertheless, disclose the means of remedying most of the difficulties, of which you will hear much complaint. When this is not the case, an appeal may be made to the medical director, or, if necessary, to the major general commanding, who, for a special purpose, can override the restrictions ordinarily placed upon the supply of medical stores and hospital conveniences.

XII.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGIMENTAL HOSPITALS SHOULD  
NOT BE TOO EXTENSIVE.

Inexperienced regimental surgeons will generally be found to err in attempting to maintain too complicated and extensive hospital arrangements, and in undertaking to deal with cases for which proper supplies and accommodations cannot be provided, except in fixed general hospitals. There should be nothing in a regimental hospital to stand in the way of sudden and rapid movements; and whenever a cure cannot shortly be expected, patients should be transferred to a general hospital. In some cases, however, this will not be possible; and when you meet with these, you are expected to do all in your power to obtain such supplies as are immediately needed, and which cannot be got by official process. This may be done either by requisition upon the stores of the Commission, by an appeal to local benevolence, or, when necessary, by a moderate expenditure of money on account of the Commission. Whenever practical, special authority for this purpose may be requested by telegraph.\*

\* Your duty in this particular is more fully explained—p. 79, Doc. 40.

## XIII.—RELATION OF REGIMENTAL TO GENERAL HOSPITALS.

Regimental surgeons also frequently err in the opposite extreme, sending patients to general hospital who have some simple illness which would yield to judicious treatment in the camp hospital in a few days. Experience is needed to enable the judgment to determine confidently between proper and improper cases for camp treatment, and your opportunities of observation and comparison will stand you in place of an extended experience in this respect. It is your primary duty, as it is that of the regimental surgeon, not to take care of the sick, but to guard against whatever weakens the regiment or embarrasses the use of its greatest possible strength for warlike purposes. The surgeon's stores, and the hospital, and the ambulance, should all be instruments to the end of the utmost possible rapidity, spirit, and force of movement in the regiment. Discourage whatever really weakens the regiment; encourage whatever tends to strengthen it against the enemy. Oftentimes tenderness to individuals is not true humanity; and the surgeon whose baggage impedes an advance or a retreat may easily be the cause of more suffering than the one who carries the hospital stores for a regiment in a knapsack, or whose medicines and instruments are all conveyed in a pocket case.

## XIV.—AMBULANCES AND AMBULANCE STORES.

The surgeon should be prepared for battle duty. If he has an ambulance, has he a trusty driver for it, and an ambulance corps, upon which he can depend under fire? Do they know how to lift and carry a man with shattered limbs? Do they know that water is more precious than gold to those who follow the track of a battle, and are they instructed how to secure it and administer it providently? Beds and sheets and wine and delicate food in the hospital tent are of little consequence to the regiment compared with these preparations. It is usual to employ the band as an ambulance corps, but it will be of little service unless previously drilled



for the duty, and habituated to obey commands from the surgeon.

#### XV.—FINAL CONFERENCE WITH COMMANDING OFFICER.

Having completed your survey of the camp, call again on the commanding officer, and acquaint him, in such a manner as you judge will be most likely to have the desired effect, with whatever you have seen to be important sanitary defects of the camp; question him if they cannot be remedied, or point out the proper remedies. Full and specific directions for this purpose cannot be given you. The Commission depends mainly on your general knowledge of the conditions of health, and upon your ingenuity and tact in so dealing in each case as, under the circumstances, will most contribute to the desired result. The present instructions have reference only to the more common defects of camps, and to remedies of general application.

#### XVI.—FREQUENT CHANGE OF CAMP SITES, IMPORTANT.

As experience proves that every camp ground becomes poisoned or malarious (it is supposed from the accumulated emanations from the bodies of the men) after thirty days, at most, of occupation, you will urge on the colonel the importance of frequent changes of position, even if only to the distance of a few hundred yards, and it may be best for you to indicate a safe and advantageous site to which the camp may be removed. Camp sites lately vacated should in no case be reoccupied. Looking to sanitary conditions alone, a camp site cannot be changed too often. Such change also tends to break up the monotony of camp life, and improves the moral tone of the men.

#### XVII.—SELECTION OF CAMP SITE.

In studying the salubrity of a position, you should not neglect to observe the character of the subsoil. Should it be damp or hard and impervious, it will generally be your

duty to urge a change of position. If a change for the better cannot be made, you should recommend the most careful drainage without delay.

With regard to the selection of camp sites, and the proper precautions for the lodging of the men, you will find useful hints in the *Report on Military Hygiene*, p. 7; also in *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*, ¶ 15, 16, 17, 18, 19; also in *Doc. 28, Advice as to Camping*.

#### XVIII.—ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE.

Should the camp be on a side-hill, you will especially recommend catch-water drains above it, and round its sides, by which the flow of water from the upper part of the hill will be effectually diverted. You will endeavor to secure also, *in every case*, the digging of a trench (the deeper the better, but at least six inches deep) around each tent or hut. These trenches should be connected, as far as may be, according to the nature of the ground, with main drains, so as to readily carry off rain water. They should be made as straight as practicable, as all sinuosities arrest the flow of water, and lead to stagnation. The sides should be cut sloping.

You will urge, if you see occasion, that all drains, especially those around tents and huts) should be kept clean, and that refuse food, &c., be not thrown into them. If they become offensive, they should be cleaned out at once, and disinfected with lime or charcoal.

In camps likely to be occupied for some time, especially in winter-quarter camps, the "streets" should be perfectly "turnpiked," or rounded, with a regular convexity, from the centre nearly to the drains, falling into a regular concave for the drains, with a convex rise again, to the front of the tents.

#### XIX.—VENTILATION.

Both in tents and huts, or citizens' houses occupied by soldiers, if they afford proper shelter, there is generally a deficient ventilation, which is often the parent of much dis-

ease. Wherever you find this to be the case, you must endeavor to devise some immediately practicable remedy or improvement, such as cutting square openings in the ends of tents, to be covered with canvas flaps, fastened down when necessary by lacings, or in a house, opening additional windows, or establishing wooden flues through the building. Where it is feasible, ventilation may be very greatly improved by introducing a lighted lamp or candle into such flue. A Sibley tent may be effectually ventilated by hanging a lantern near the roof. Any large building occupied as a hospital will require immediate attention, and no time should be lost in providing it with perfect ventilation.

#### XX.—SINKS, MANURE AND OFFAL.

In all cases you will visit the privies of the camp, and let it be seen that you regard the manner in which they are formed and kept as most seriously affecting the character of the regiment, as it is sure to have an important relation to its sanitary condition. A proper arrangement of the privies, and the usual method employed in well organized armies of keeping them, is described in ¶ 14, page 6 of the *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*.

You will advise that the manure and litter of all horses and cattle be collected, removed from camp and covered with earth, or burned, at short and regular intervals; and also that the offal of cattle slaughtered near any camp or post be buried at once, and at sufficient depth. See page 10, *Report of Military Hygiene*.

#### XXI.—REFUSE FOOD AND SLOPS.

You will observe whether men are in the habit of throwing away refuse food or slops anywhere and at random, or of doing anything else that tends to make the atmosphere of the camp unwholesome. If such practices prevail, you will do all you can to put a stop to them.



## XXII.—DISINFECTANTS.

You will ascertain whether quicklime or sulphate of lime (plaster of Paris) can be readily obtained in large quantities for purposes of disinfection; and if so, recommend its free use. The use of lime is to be especially urged for the white-washing of hospitals, quarters, &c. If neither of these articles are at hand, you will remember that charcoal (either wood or peat) is among the best and most efficient of deodorizers or disinfectants, and urge that men be detailed to burn a supply of this material, and that it be copiously used.

## XXIII.—WATER.

If the water supplied to the men is impure or unwholesome, you will endeavor to devise some mode of improving it, however rough and temporary—as, for instance, aeration, by letting it fall from one vessel to another, or filtration through a barrel half full of coarsely-powdered charcoal. All springs should be carefully cleaned and secured by surrounding them with a barrel, or with masonry. All springs and wells should be inspected from time to time, and be kept always under a guard. Wells should be cleaned out with care, especially in cases of epidemic. They are apt to become foul, from matters carelessly or wantonly thrown into them. They are then fruitful sources of disease.

## XXIV.—FRAUDS AS TO CLOTHING.

If you find that clothing or other articles furnished by contractor have proved so grossly defective as to indicate fraud on the part of the contractor, you will report all particulars in regard thereto, and will also forward written statements, under oath or otherwise, on which the Commission can determine whether criminal proceedings against the contractor can be instituted with any prospect of success.

## XXV.—QUALITY OF RATIONS AND MODE OF COOKING.

You will pay particular attention to the quality of the rations, and the mode of cooking them.

If they are unwholesome from bad cookery, you will point out the defect, and urge its remedy. See ¶ 8, 9, 10, and 11, of *Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier*.

Should you find the meal-times of the soldier less regular than they might be, you will urge the necessity of correcting the evil as far as possible, as it is known to be provocative of diarrhœa and other disorders.

You will keep in view the importance of varying the rations, and of supplying the men with fresh vegetables as far as practicable.

## XXVI.—BEDDING.

You will recommend the use of beds of hemlock, pine, or cedar boughs where they can be readily had. If straw be so used, it should be taken to a distance from camp and burned at least once a week.

## XXVII.—AIRING OF TENTS.

All plank floorings of tents should be raised at least once a week, and the ground under them may be covered with lime or charcoal.

Tents should be raised and their interior and floors exposed to direct sunlight every fine day, if possible. They should be struck, turned inside out, and thoroughly sunned, and the plank floors, if any, raised and sunned once a week, at least.

## XXVIII.—TRANSMISSION OF SAVINGS.

The permanent assignment of the whole or a part of the pay of the soldiers, by means of the Allotment System, to those dependent on them for subsistence, should be encouraged. Such systematic disposition of their pay is important, as well from hygienic as from economical considerations, for habits of providence are favorable to health.

## XXIX.—PUNISHMENTS.

You will report if you observe or hear of any unusual method of punishment, and what its results have been.

## XXX.—MODE OF MAKING RETURNS TO CENTRAL OFFICE.

In all cases, as soon as practicable after completing your inspection of any camp, prepare in ink, your return of observations made. The manner in which this return is afterwards to be used, can in part be inferred from the Summary of Statistics derived from a limited number of returns of inspections, which will be found in the Commission's Document No. 40.

You are particularly enjoined to be careful to avoid a mere repetition of the statements of the officers of the regiment. The return should represent, and will be assumed to represent, your own personal observations and the conclusions of your judgment upon all the information you have been able to obtain. The larger part of the questions of the return can be answered with considerable confidence from your own observations alone.

Answers should be given to all questions as far as practicable; mere guesses, however, should never be returned when facts are demanded.

Vague answers must be carefully avoided. As a rule, the information returned should be as precise, full, and detailed as is practicable.

Each return should be complete in itself, replies to questions, which may have been answered in a previous report, not being neglected.

The locality of the camp site (Q. 1) should be so described that a visitor years hence, guided by the return, would experience little difficulty in finding it—as “Camp Buckingham, on Meridian Hill, between 7th and 14th streets, Washington, D. C.; or, “Camp Johnson,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Turkey-Hill, Mississippi, on the old road to Holly Springs.”

The various designations, if more than one, of the regi-



ment or corps inspected (Q. 6) should be given; as "84th Regiment New York Volunteers, infantry, (U. S. Chasseurs;)" or, "71st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, infantry, (California Regiment.)"

The full military titles of officers should be stated, as Major General Nathaniel P. Banks, commanding army-corps, not General Banks; or, Brigadier General E. S. Keyes, commanding division, not General E. S. Keyes.

Facts pertaining to the previous military education and experience (if any) of the officer commanding the regiment (Q. 7) may be given, as "Graduate of West Point," "Served in the war of the Crimea," "Hungarian Army officer," "Served in Continental and in South American armies."

If a subordinate officer is in command, or if the command of the regiment has been transferred, (Q. 7,) explanatory circumstances of general interest should be stated; as in the case of the 20th regiment of Massachusetts volunteers, infantry, inspected December 28, 1861, "Colonel Wm. Raymond Lee, (West Point graduate,) prisoner; Lieut. Colonel Francis W. W. Palfrey commanding."

The answer required by the note to question 20 has sometimes not been given, the note escaping the attention of the inspector.

You must not consider your field of investigation restricted to the subjects referred to in these instructions, or to those with regard to which the queries of the Return relate. Questions of strategy and tactics are not within your official province, but all questions are so that relate to matters affecting the physique or morale of the army. Nor is the army to be considered merely in its personal aspect, but as an aggregate of men and material—a living organism. Whatever would materially affect its vigor and mobility as a whole, may be regarded as a subject of sanitary inquiry. Thus, the condition of its horses and wagons, may at times become worthy of your careful notice.

XXXI.—STATEMENT OF SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CAMP AND  
PARTICULARS OF ADVICE GIVEN, TO ACCOMPANY THE  
“RETURN.”

Accompanying your Return, send to this office a written report of any notable characteristic of the camp of which information will not otherwise have been given, and especially state the more important particulars of the advice which you have offered to the regimental, company, or medical officers, and wherein you have been able to be of assistance to them. Report also if any of the officers exhibit habits or marked peculiarities, or if they express opinions from which influences affecting conditions of health are likely to arise, as: “Captain of Co. B, regards coffee as an all sufficient prophylactic against malaria, urges his men to fill their canteens with it every morning, and chew the berry when on night duties.”

The discretionary duty here indicated is not to be neglected because discretionary. It is often one of the highest importance.

XXXII.—CASE OF PERSISTENT NEGLECT OF SANITARY PRE-  
CAUTIONS.

If you have found your advice disregarded, and important sanitary precautions persistently neglected, without sufficient military or other reasons therefor, address the proper officer on the subject in writing, stating the grounds of your advice. Take pains to do this in such a manner as not to cause irritation or give offence, and, at the end of the week, send a copy of your letter to this office, together with any answer which may have been given you.

In visits subsequent to the first, all important changes which have occurred since previous reports should be noticed; and especially it should be stated whether and how far advice previously given has been followed, and with what results.

Whenever you see occasion, advise action which you think

desirable to be taken by the Commission or to be initiated at Washington. On urgent occasions, communicate directly with the Governors of States or other authorities, sending copies of your communications to this office.

I am, doctor,

Respectfully yours,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary.*







# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 52.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL INSPECTORS CONCERNING CERTAIN CAMPAIGN DUTIES.

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CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON, *December 1st, 1862.*

*To each General Inspector of the Sanitary Commission:*

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO SUMMARY INSPECTIONS AND THE USE OF FORM C.

SIR—In Doc. No. 51 you have been instructed as to the proper method of procedure when engaged in visiting troops likely to be for some time at rest in camp. Accompanying these instructions you have received a series of inquiries incorporated in a form, (A,) which you were requested to reply to as minutely as possible. This form of return is applicable only to the inspection of troops at rest. During an active campaign it will be, as a general rule, impracticable to continue these inspections; and another form of return has been prepared, which, while it is of a summary character, yet conforms in its chief points to the general divisions of the more minute return.

A large portion of the army has already been inspected according to Form A, and it is very desirable that every regiment should receive one such thorough inspection. A list of those regiments which have been so inspected will be furnished you. Their minute inspection need not be repeated, but it is important that their sanitary history should be continued by the more summary inspection of Form C.



When from circumstances you are unable to use the more formal return in regiments hitherto not inspected, you will collect all the information you can by the more condensed Form C, taking advantage, however, of the first good opportunity to secure an inspection by Form A.

The points to be investigated are divided first into two heads—those of observation and those of inquiry, and the latter are again sub-divided into inquiries made of the Surgeon and those addressed to other officers of the regiment.

An abstract has been made of these inquiries, arranged according to these divisions, in the form of memoranda, on three slips, to be attached for reference, while inspecting, to the cover of a note book. These memoranda suggest every point of investigation included in the return, the numerals attached indicating the inquiries to which they refer. Notes of inspection can be immediately entered under the appropriate numeral, the return being at once filled up from these notes by yourself or your assistant, receiving in the latter case your revision and signature before being sent to this office. These returns should be sent to the office immediately upon being filled up.

Through your professional relations to the surgeon, you will generally be able to derive full information concerning the condition of the hospital, its supply, and the measure of sickness in camp; and thus, even when visits to other officers are undesirable, or necessarily brief, you should seek, if possible, to become through him so well informed on these points that you may answer minutely the inquiries of the General Divisions XIX and XX.

You should also give especial attention to conditions and circumstances affecting discipline, indicating, when it may be in your power, instances where its neglect has induced sickness or notably impaired the effective power of a regiment for active operations in the field.

In general, you will be guided by the spirit of the fuller instructions heretofore given you, (Doc. 51;) a more or less literal conformity thereto being left to your judgment, to be determined by existing circumstances.

In rendering your "return" of inspection you are not to be limited to accurate replies to the queries of Form C, but may in addition approximate as nearly as you can to the more complete Form A.

In order to procure a continuous sanitary history of the army in the field, summary inspections should be made of every regiment, under all circumstances, at least once a quarter, and monthly if convenient. Regiments should be *visited* more frequently, and it should be your aim to survey the whole field of your duties, and confer with every surgeon at least weekly.

#### INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WEEKLY REPORTS.

That the central offices may be kept well informed of all the operations of the Commission through its inspectors and their assistants, inspectors will hereafter be required to prepare a general weekly report, which is to be sent punctually to the office of the Commission at Louisville or Washington. In this report you will designate the regiments and hospitals which you have visited, or with whose officers you have conferred on matters of their duty, and, so far as convenient, whatever you have observed or done of interest with reference to each. You will also speak of the condition of the troops generally under your observation, especially of changes which have occurred, or are occurring, in their sanitary condition; of the condition of hospitals, regimental and general, their deficiencies and the causes of these, the condition and business of the relief station or stations, (whether fixed, floating, or ambulatory,) under your superintendence, especially stating, in a concise form, (suitable for publication,) the amount of each sort of goods issued to the hospitals, (with names of surgeons,) corps or individuals relieved, with any remarks or explanations, which may be required to satisfy contributors of goods that they are issued in accordance with the obligations of the Commission to the public, together with any other observations which will be likely to aid the Commission and its officers in understanding the condition and wants of the army.

## INSTRUCTIONS AS TO REPORTS ABOUT SUPPLIES.

Special information as to the deficiencies of the relief station, with instructions as to their supply, and the prospective demand will be made to the depot from which supplies are drawn, whether this be in charge of a Secretary or of another officer of the Commission ; all such information is to be transmitted to the Central Office from the Depot at frequent intervals, with reports from the officer in charge as to supplies in hand and wanted, the prospective demand, &c.

## INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HISTORICAL REPORTS OF REGIMENTS.

It is proposed to add to the records of the Commission a sketch of the history of all the regiments in the service, especially of their sanitary and medical history. This is not to interfere with the more important duty of inspections, but is to be procured as other engagements allow. In doing your part toward the realization of this purpose, you will please make special inquiry with regard to the epidemics, prolonged encampments, severe fatigue duties, marchings, forced or otherwise, engagements with the enemy, and pitched battles, with the peculiar circumstances attending each, since the regiment entered service up to the period of the first inspection by Form C. Thereafter the historical record will refer only to the period intervening between the dates of inspection.

Your obedient servant,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*General Secretary.*



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 53.

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## RULES OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

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WASHINGTON, *September 22, 1862.*

The business of this Office is becoming so complicated that the following rules are deemed necessary to secure its efficient control. Rules already in force, and customs established, are to be maintained as far as they can be made to consist with these :

### I.

One of the Associate Secretaries will be constantly in charge of the Office, and will be directly responsible for all the business of the Office, except as follows:

1. Correspondence about supplies and nurses, and the acknowledgment of donations and remittances, which will be referred to the Assistant Secretary.

2. Accounts, and the keeping of supply and document books, which will be referred to the Accountant.

3. Special or individual relief, which will be referred to the Special Relief Agent for Washington.

4. The preparation of statistics, which will be referred to the Actuary.

5. The business of the Hospital Directory, which will be referred to the Directory Clerk.

6. The business of the Special Hospital Inspection, which will be referred to the Chief of Special Hospital Inspection.

Each of the above-named officers will report to the Secretary in charge, so far as may be necessary to enable him to

comprehensively supervise the whole business of the Office. He should be promptly made acquainted with any specially important or unusual occurrence within their respective fields of duty.

## II.

All letters arriving on business of the Office should be opened at the desk of the Chief Clerk, and immediately folded and endorsed as follows:

1. Number.
2. Who from.
3. Where written.
4. Date.
5. When received.
6. Brief note or syllabus of contents.
7. (If they require action or answer) to whom referred.

A record of the endorsement on each letter will be made in a book of letters received.

Important letters, and such as do not come within the usual routine of the Office, will be referred to the Secretary in charge.

All letters, after being answered or acted upon, will be returned to the desk of the Chief Clerk, *if answered*, with an indication of the character of the answer, or the page of the Letter Book containing a copy of the answer, and with the name of the person answering; *if not answered*, with the name of the person who has undertaken any duty required by the letter.

A margin on the left is to be given of an inch and a quarter, on cap or letter sheets, and of three quarters of an inch on note sheets, in all official reports, letters, notes, or papers for record, prepared in this Office.

Every letter to be sent out on business of the Commission is to be copied, or a memorandum of its contents is to be copied, in the Press Letter Book, with date, signer's name, and direction.

All telegrams sent are to be copied and recorded, with a note of the time when they were sent.

All telegrams received are to be immediately pasted in a book, with a note of the time when they were received.

### III.

Each officer will keep a diary of his official duties, with such observations as he may be disposed to add, such being especially requested as will help to form a history of the war, and of the work of the Commission in connection with it. This diary to be regarded as the property of the Commission.

### IV.

As from the nature of the duty assumed by the Sanitary Commission, much urgent irregular business is liable to arise, it is of great importance that as far as possible all regular business should be transacted methodically and punctually. It is expected that all regular office duties will be performed between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. If this is found, as a rule, impracticable in any department, the Secretary in charge should be informed of it, in which case he will engage additional force, or make a new adjustment of duties, as a remedy.

### V.

Expenditures on account of the Commission are authorized to be made only upon the order of a member of the Commission, the Associate and Assistant Secretaries, and the Special Relief Agent, or by the Inspectors and Travelling Agents, subject to the approval of one of the above-named Officers.

All claims upon the Commission, before payment at this Office, must be approved by one of the above-named Officers.

Freight bills must be certified just and correct by the Transportation Clerk, before they are approved for payment.

Before the fifth day of each month, an account of all claims against the Commission, for goods or services rendered to it during the previous month, will, as far as possible, be collected, approved, and paid, and the accounts of the Office will be audited by one of the Secretaries, assisted by an expert



accountant, or if that is impracticable, by any two of the above-named Officers.

## VI.

As soon as invoices are received, they will be acknowledged, as per printed form A, by the Assistant Secretary, and will then be transferred to the Accountant, who will enter them in detail in the Transit and Invoice Books. The invoices (or copies of them) with any other advices received of goods to arrive, will be transferred to the necessary Storekeeper, to await the arrival of the supplies they indicate.

The Transportation Clerk will visit the railroad stations and river landings daily, or as often as may be necessary, and will collect the way-bills, and take such other measures as may be required, to inform himself of the arrival of goods. On their arrival at the station or landing, he will give receipts for the parcels. He will then see that they are moved as rapidly as may be convenient to the Receiving Storehouse; and will especially endeavor to prevent any unnecessary accumulation at the stations and landings, or elsewhere. When packages have arrived, marked so as to be identified as corresponding to invoices received, these should be preferred to be left, if the accumulation is so great that some must be left away from the Receiving Storehouse. But as far as possible, all packages are to be conveyed at once to the Receiving Storehouse. As soon as goods have arrived, they will be acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary, as per printed form B, said acknowledgments having been prepared by the Accountant. When packages are addressed to individual regiments, companies, or persons, in care of the Commission, they will be sent at once, with the corresponding invoices, to the Local Storekeeper, who will receipt to the Receiving Storekeeper for them, and notify the Assistant Secretary of their arrival. The Assistant Secretary will then apprise the parties to whom they are addressed, as per printed form C.

The Receiving Storekeeper will call daily upon the Accountant, for invoices or other memoranda. As soon as

packages are received at the Receiving Storehouse, he will open them, assort, and count or measure their contents, compare them with the invoices or memoranda which will have been given him, endorse these according to the facts ascertained, and return them to the Accountant. The Receiving Storekeeper will store away the articles received in cases, each sort by itself. He will deliver articles only upon a requisition approved by one of the Secretaries, the Assistant Secretary, or the Chief Clerk. He will keep an account of all goods received, (whether with or without invoices, or with or without numbers or marks of identity,) and of all delivered, and will every morning, before nine o'clock, hand to the Assistant Secretary his report of the stock on hand, up to the previous evening, as per printed form D.

The Local Storekeeper will keep a full supply of all sorts of goods received by the Commission, making requisition upon the Receiving Storekeeper for this purpose, (this requisition being ordinarily submitted for approval to the Assistant Secretary.) He will deliver on requisitions in manuscript, or as per printed forms E and F, signed or approved by any Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, or the Chief Clerk; or, in the absence of these Officers, he will meet immediate and urgent calls with the written approval of any Inspector of the Commission, reporting such cases as soon as practicable afterwards to one of these Officers, who will then endorse his approval. He will take receipts from all parties to whom he issues. When such parties are at a distance he will send by mail, or other safe conveyance, the invoice, as per printed form G, which should be returned to him receipted. He will every morning, before nine o'clock, hand to the Assistant Secretary a report, as per printed form D, of the stock on hand in his storehouse the preceding evening, and will also furnish a tri-monthly report of the supplies he has issued, and to whom. He will keep a Requisition Book, in which will be entered, every evening, copies of the requisitions which have been met during the preceding day. The book will then be transferred to the Accountant until required next day by the local Storekeeper.

Punctual entries will be made by the Accountant in the columns of the Transit Book, under the several heads following:

- (1.) Invoice, date of receipt of.
- (2.) Consignment number.
- (3.) Consigner, name of.
- (4.) Shipment, place of.
- (5.) Shipment, date of.
- (6.) Folio of Invoice Book.
- (7.) Number of package.
- (8.) Date of arrival. <sup>89</sup>

Column 7 refers to the number or mark inscribed on each individual package, as per invoice; not to the collective number of many or several packages mentioned in one invoice.

The Accountant will also keep an Invoice Book and a Requisition Ledger. In the former exact copies in detail of each invoice will be entered as soon as it is received, and an entry of the page on which each invoice is commenced will be made in column 6 of the transit book. The Requisition Ledger will be posted up from the Local Storekeeper's Requisition Book daily, and will show the current issues to all hospitals or individuals.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary.*



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 54.

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SANITARY COMMISSION,  
New York Agency, 823 Broadway,  
October 22, 1862.

Applications for *material* to be manufactured into hospital clothing are constantly received by us. I regret to state that the Commission, after a short trial of the plan of furnishing material, finds it working so badly for its own interest, that it has been compelled to abandon it. We find that if we supply any Societies with material, we must supply *all*, and that to attempt this, would ruin our treasury in twenty days.

Nothing but the unbought, freely-given services of our people at home, both in furnishing *material and labor*, can avail to meet the vast demand for Hospital Clothing existing among our brave, suffering troops. If you recall the fact that we have 70,000 men in General Hospitals, 10,000 more in Regimental Hospitals, and perhaps 50,000 more in convalescent and other camps, you will see what a vast supply these 130,000 sick or invalid soldiers require. For you have only to think how much change of clothing, how much costly medicine, how much delicate food, how much wine and other stimulants, a single sick person at home requires, to appreciate the endless wants of 130,000 men in our hospitals and camps, one third seriously ill, one third really sick, and one third ailing. Nothing short of the free activity and free contributions of every family, hamlet, village, church, and community throughout the loyal States, continued as long as the war continues, can avail to meet this never-ending, always-increasing drain.

It is the little springs of fireside labor oozing into the rills of village industry, these again uniting in the streams of county beneficence, and these in State or larger movements,

flowing together into the rivers which directly empty into our great national reservoir of supplies, which could alone render possible the vast outflow of assistance which the Sanitary Commission is lending our sick and wounded soldiers. It is only necessary to give one statement to prove the absurdity of attempting to supply from our treasury the *material* of this home-labor for our cause. During the month of September, the Sanitary Commission *distributed daily* through its various agencies, West, East, and South, as well as can be now ascertained, not less than 26,000 articles, which, at an estimated value of 50 cents each, were worth thirteen thousand dollars, (\$13,000.) In a month of 31 days, as any one can see, this would amount to over \$400,000! and supposing only half the value to be in the material, you can see that it would cost us \$200,000 per month to supply the material which has, up to this time, been given us. This statement equally demonstrates the munificence of our contributors, in the past, and the utter folly of attempting to substitute our money for their free gifts. No! the moment the liberality and confidence of the homes and villages desert the Sanitary Commission, that moment its work of relief is ended.

Remember that the present destitution of the sick and wounded, which it requires such exertions on the part of the Commission to alleviate, is in spite of the comprehensive, energetic, and liberal exertions of the Medical Department of the Government. The admirable head of the Medical Department, Surgeon General Hammond, is laboring with most indefatigable zeal, and with most humane and enlightened ideas, to do all the resources of the Government allow him to do for the sick and wounded. But, although the expenses of his department will this year be over \$10,000,000, the field of care and want is too vast to be covered even by that expenditure. Then, with many experienced surgeons, how many more are necessarily too young and too new to their duties to understand the machinery, or execute promptly the generous intentions of the department? Add to this, that while inflexible rules are absolutely essential in all govern-

mental operations, they are inevitable causes of delay and obstruction; these great evils being less tolerable than utter chaos and irresponsibleness!

Thus, the *hospital fund*, the theoretical resource for supplying all the extra wants of the sick, (a fund which accumulates from having the ration of the sick soldier commuted and obtaining in money for the hospital the value of what, as a sick man, he cannot eat and drink,) is not available till a hospital has been at least six weeks in existence; and what are sick and wounded soldiers to do for clothing and delicacies meanwhile? Then, it is not available *at all* to field hospitals. There were, for instance, seventy-one of those field hospitals on the battle-field of Antietam, and not a penny of relief could they derive from any hospital fund. So, too, the Government has made some recent arrangements for supplying underclothing to the sick and wounded, over and above the yield of the hospital fund, but it takes on an average two weeks to get a requisition supplied. It is the same thing with a recent order for furnishing outer clothing to convalescents, "who have lost their clothing by the casualties of war," and who have been, sometimes, kept in bed weeks, because they had neither trousers nor coat to get up in! The practical difficulties of carrying out the intentions of the Government in reference to so vast a body as an army of 130,000 invalids, produce immense suffering in spite of the utmost liberality and energy in the Medical Department and the Government.

Supposing only one eighth of what is necessary and humane, in the vast requirements of the sick and wounded, to be unavoidably left undone by Government: to supply that deficiency would require a force in men and money, equivalent to one seventh of the present force and the present means of the Medical Department. That is, it would require at least five hundred men and a million and a half of dollars! Now, the Sanitary Commission has, perhaps, during the last year had what is equivalent to half that force of men, money, and capacity of supplies, at its disposal. It has done, therefore, at the best, only half what remained to be done! There



remains a sixteenth part of the preventable suffering of the sick and wounded unalleviated. On this sixteenth part, local and State associations have made some impression, but, owing to inconstant or ill-arranged methods, they have really embarrassed about as much as they have helped the Department. But the point to be steadily kept in view is that the sum of misery is confessedly beyond all that the Medical Department and the Sanitary Commission can do, with their present resources, and that it is not from any want of zeal or labor on their part that more is not accomplished, but simply because the work is larger than their means and instrumentalities. Do not wonder, then, at the stories of neglect, of suffering, of want, you hear from soldiers and from hospitals. They may, any of them, be true, and neither of us be to blame. You must not measure either the Medical Department or the Sanitary Commission by what they do not do—but by what they do! None can be so well aware as they of what remains to be done. If you would alleviate this misery and want, send the Sanitary Commission larger supplies. This is the only remedy you have. Make the supplies in money and goods *adequate*, and you shall have no reason to complain.

You would like to know what the Sanitary Commission is going to do with the money in its treasury, if it does not propose to purchase and supply materials? It is going to do what it has been busily doing for eighteen months past, at a cost of about \$200,000 to its treasury—*i. e.*,

1. Maintain constant inspection of camps for the dissemination of intelligence regarding the prevention of sickness.

2. Maintain the preparation and distribution of short, but thorough medical and sanitary papers for the guidance of medical and other officers.

3. Relieve the wounded on battle-fields, by supplying them with condensed food, stimulants, and means of preserving life, as at the battle of Antietam, when \$20,000 were expended in a few days.

4. Keep a corps of experts in constant circulation in all our hospitals, reporting defects, correcting evils, and doing their utmost to alleviate the radical sources of suffering.



5. Maintain the machinery for collecting and distributing the supplies furnished by the homes of the land—a business of great labor, expense, and wide agencies.

6. Afford special relief at our various “Homes” for sick and wounded men who are *in transitu* from camps and hospitals.

7. Make the general wants and condition of sick and wounded men a constant study, and strive by influences on Government, on Congress and the public, to secure such new laws, or general orders, or *to make such a public opinion* as will induce constant improvement in their condition.

You will see that the maintenance of all these objects does and must exhaust all the funds from every quarter at the command of the Commission, and that it is wholly in vain to think of supplying *material* to the societies, with such other expenses on our hands.

We have, then, only to urge again, the instant and earnest response of each and every home and sewing-circle, and soldiers’ relief association, to the urgent cry of the hospitals for supplies. You cannot make too instant, or too generous, or too long-continued efforts to meet the whole case! The homes of the land must protect the brave men who have left their comforts to battle for the liberties of their country. We have no right to luxuries, or extra comforts, while they continue half-clad or half-succored. Do not believe any stories which would discourage your efforts. All the noisy reports about the abuse of your gifts, the waste of supplies, the stealing by hospital stewards and surgeons, have the usual percentage of truth in them—they are just as true as, and no more so than, similar charges brought against any large body of men, or any great instrumentality. So far as the Sanitary Commission is involved, it denies their truth utterly, where its own agency or agents are concerned.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

*President and Chairman of the Executive Committee.*

## NOTE.

The plan of the Relief Service of the Sanitary Commission, is—

1. To secure, as far as practicable, reserves of hospital and ambulance supplies, in order to be prepared to act with efficiency in emergencies.
2. To cover in its work, as far as practicable, the whole field of the war, dispensing supplies wherever most needed, to all in the service of the Union, without preference of State, arm, or rank, Army or Navy, volunteer or regular.
3. To study the whole field, by means of carefully selected and trained medical inspectors, in order to determine where supplies are most needed, and to watch against their misuse.
4. While administering to all pressing needs of the suffering, to carefully avoid relieving the officials in charge in any unnecessary degree from their responsibility, but to do all that is possible to secure his full rights to the soldier, unable to help himself.

5. To cordially co-operate, as far as practicable, with the hospital service of the Government, endeavoring to supplement, never to supplant it.

Societies, churches, schools, and all other organizations, the members of which cherish the principles upon which this plan is founded, are cordially invited to avail themselves of it in any action which they may see fit to take for the benefit of the sick and wounded.

1st. Contributing Aid Societies will send supplies when they see fit, through the channels established by the Commission.

2d. Corresponding Aid Societies must be devoted to the collection and preparation of supplies, to be sent to the soldier exclusively through the Commission.

3d. Branch Aid Societies are chartered by the Commission, to be established at points suitable for obtaining supplies, intended for distribution by the system of the Commission, from States or large districts. They must be responsible for the necessary labor and expense of this duty, and must account exactly and punctually to those from whom supplies are received, and to the Commission.

As the Commission are trustees for the judicious distribution of the gifts of the people to the soldiers, the Branches are intermediate trustees for collecting, assorting, packing, storing, and forwarding the gifts. In emergencies, the Branch Societies are often called upon to assist the Commission even more directly in the performance of its duties.

Branches and Corresponding Societies will be supplied with the bulletins and all other publications of the Commission as soon as issued.

Commissioners under appointment from the President of the United States: The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D.; Prof. A. D. Bache, LL. D.; George W. Cullum, U. S. A.; Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A.; Robert C. Wood, M. D., U. S. A.; William H. Van Buren, M. D.; Wolcott Gibbs, M. D.; Samuel G. Howe, M. D.; Cornelius R. Agnew, M. D.; Elisha Harris, M. D.; J. S. Newberry, M. D.; George T. Strong; Horace Binney, Jr.; the Right Rev. Thos. M. Clark, D. D.; the Hon. Joseph Holt; R. W. Burnett; the Hon. Mark Skinner; Frederick Law Olmsted.

For further information apply to

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*General Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, October 21, 1862.







# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 55.

FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS.

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## OPERATIONS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION AT PERRYVILLE, KY.

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LOUISVILLE, Oct. 24, 1862.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, ESQ.,

*Gen. Sec. San. Com.*

DEAR SIR—I herewith transmit the reports of Dr. Read, our Inspector, on the measures of relief extended by the Sanitary Commission to the sufferers in the late battle of Perryville. From a combination of causes, the condition of the wounded in this fight was peculiarly distressing. No adequate provision had been made for their care. The stock of medicines and hospital stores in the hands of the surgeons was insignificant. They had almost no ambulances, no tents, no hospital furniture, and no proper food. In addition to this, the small village of Perryville afforded but very imperfect means for the care of the great number of wounded concentrated there, either in the way of buildings to be used as hospitals, or resources and appliances of any other kind.

The surrounding country had been overrun and devastated by two great armies, and the inhabitants impoverished in all possible ways. As a consequence, nearly everything necessary to the proper care of the sick or wounded men had to be imported from a considerable distance; and before the requisite assistance in men and means could, through any agencies, reach the battle-field, untold suffering, and even deaths had occurred, which might have been prevented, if help and supplies had been present, or readily accessible.

It is true, that such sad scenes as those witnessed at Perryville have been recorded among the incidents of nearly all battles of ancient or modern times, so that by many they have come to be regarded as necessary accompaniments of the carnage of conflict, and as inseparable ingredients of the horror of war. This, however, I contend, is a fatal fallacy. I am no optimist, and have no idea that war can be so softened down and christianized as to be otherwise than unutterably hideous in all its aspects; and yet my observation has led me to believe that by far

the saddest cases which war presents, the cases of those who lie for days helpless and neglected on the battle-field, who perish by the slow oozing of their life-blood, by cold, by heat, by thirst, by starvation, when the simplest succor might restore them to life and health, to the ranks, and their homes—that these, the only cases in which the victims of war are now *tortured* to death, are generally gratuitous and unnecessary exhibitions of individual perversity or official incompetence, generated and grown under a vicious system of military administration; and that being such, they are a disgrace to our civilization, our Christianity, and our cause. You will perhaps think the language I use unwarranted, but I am fully assured it is true. The evil to which I refer is a great and sad one, and if, as I believe, it is avoidable, it is one that must be abated, if we hope to keep alive the patriotism and enthusiasm of our soldiers, and retain the favor of an all-seeing God. But you will ask—if these are crimes, not fates or Providences, who are their authors?

The surgeons are known to have the immediate care of the sick and wounded of our armies, and are generally held responsible for their treatment in all respects. It is therefore exceedingly common to hear in conversation, or to see in print, the gravest charges of cruelty, incompetency, or gross neglect of duty, made against surgeons of the regiments, of the divisions, or the department in which these instances of unnecessary suffering have occurred. This I can assure you is, as a general rule, a cruel mistake.

Since the war began it has been my special duty to look after the manner in which the surgeons connected with the armies of the West have done their work. Many of them I have known for years in civil life, and of most who have held official positions in this Department since its first organization, I can say that I have had the means of learning with great accuracy whether or not they have been faithful to their trust. And now, with nothing to fear from their displeasure, or gain from their favor, moved by regard for truth and justice alone, my testimony is—that, as a class, they have been greatly misjudged and misrepresented.

It is not true, as seems to be too generally suspected, that when a medical man accepts a military appointment he thereby and at once sells himself, body and soul, to the devil. On the contrary, I do not hesitate to say, that the most hard-working, self-denying, earnest, and conscientious officers in the army, are its surgeons.

I do not, of course, arrogate to the class any superhuman virtues. They are all simply men, and have men's imperfections; and there are those among them so ignorant, and others so depraved, that they are a curse to the service, *unfit* to the profession, and a disgrace to those

by whom they were commissioned. Yet such are few. Most are laborious, faithful, and meritorious. The greater part have passed a rigid examination before a competent medical board, by whom they were declared well qualified for their duties, and have since, by their services in the field, vindicated the propriety of their selection from the great number of candidates for the places which they hold. During the past year all the surgeons have been overworked. None that I know have escaped disease contracted in the discharge of their duties; many have gone home with their health permanently broken, and not a few have been martyrs to their faithfulness.

Nor is it true that the chief medical officers are any exceptions to the rule I have laid down for the corps. It gives me pleasure to state that after long and thorough experience of the manner in which the duties of their offices have been administered by the venerable chief of Gen. Halleck's medical staff, Dr. McDougal; Gen. Buell's medical director, Dr. Murray; and those who now hold the most responsible positions at this point, Drs. Head and Mylert, respectively medical director and purveyor, I have found in their manner and measures very much to admire and praise; almost nothing to condemn. I am sure all who know the gentlemen I have enumerated, as I do, will unite with me in pronouncing them faithful and efficient officers, high-toned and honorable men. Struggling with various and discouraging *impedimenta*, they have earnestly and with singleness of purpose striven to do their duty thoroughly and well, and have deplored, more than others can, the embarrassments by which their action has been fettered, their good and wise purpose thwarted. Could the truth be known, they would receive sympathy and honor from the public, rather than the obloquy so many are disposed to heap upon them.

Who, then, is responsible for the facts, that at the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Perryville, no adequate provision was made beforehand for the care of the wounded; that proper supplies of medicines and hospital stores and an abundance of appropriate food were not on hand or within easy reach? Whose fault is it that there were so few surgeons and trained assistants; so few ambulances, and ambulance attendants, that men must lie two, three, four days, on the battle-field before they could be taken up, sheltered from the sun, the frost, the rain, their hunger and thirst assuaged, and their wounds dressed?

Whose fault is it that many a poor fellow, hardy and brave though he might be, unequal to the torture entailed by such neglect—worn out by his long suffering and exposure—has yielded up his life, so precious to his country and his home?



To any one acquainted with the theory of our military organization, and familiar with the *personnel* of our army, the question need not be a difficult one. The fault is, for the most part, incident to the workings of a defective system, in special instances aggravated by individual incompetency. The defect in our military system, a defect which bears the sad eases I have described as its natural fruit, is this—that to the Medical Department, on which the responsibility and the care of the sick reposes, *no part of the functions of the Quartermaster and Commissary Department are independently entrusted.*

As a consequence, the sick, having no official representative in these departments, are constantly the victims of the caprices or necessities of those whose duty is first to do their own work, and then attend to them if they can. When, and not before, the surgeons are provided with independent means of transportation and subsistence for the sick, we can hold them fully responsible for their care. In theory, the “art of war” is a game like chess, in which the combinations and movements can only be constantly successful where the powers of the pieces remain unimpaired. To the purely military tactician, therefore, the sick of his command become an embarrassing and vexatious hindrance. They are really eyesores to him; and, associated with them, the surgeons, their guardians, are too often looked upon as necessary evils, and with no special complacency. If fully inspired with the *animus* of his profession, and not deterred by considerations of humanity, every military commander would abandon the disabled of his forces without care, having before him the sole object to win the game, he would throw off every incubus at once. Now, humanity forbids that this should be done, but the inducement and the impulse remain, and their influence is felt by all military men. Their impatience under the restraint of a long sick list is shown in various ways.

One General of Division within the last few months, and under my own observation, determined to eradicate sickness from his command, by ordering all men under medical treatment to appear daily at dress parade. And so they did, day after day—those able to walk, dragging themselves out under the broiling sun to witness the ceremony; those unable to help themselves, dragged thither in ambulances. This system, if pursued sufficiently long, would doubtless have been successful, driving all malingerers back to the ranks, the really sick rapidly to their graves.

Another military chieftain, commander of a great army at a later date, indeed, a very recent date, led his forces, by rapid marches, across a State, many, if not all, his regimental surgeons being prohibited, by special order, from taking with them any medical supplies whatever.



Some of them are to-day, as I know, following their regiments with no other remedial agents than such as they carry, in defiance of orders, about their persons.

Will it surprise you, then, if I tell you that when the forces of this General met the enemy, and a bloody battle ensued, there was no adequate preparation for the wounded, and, as a consequence of this want of preparation, there was great suffering, and lives were lost? Nor will it surprise you to learn that the chief medical officer of this army, an eminent surgeon, a most efficient officer, a man endeared to all his associates in that army by his kindness and courtesy, after months endurance of what seemed a studied disregard of the claims of his Department, felt compelled to ask to be relieved.

You may perhaps have been wearied by this long disquisition which I have inflicted upon you, but it includes, as it seems to me, an explanation of the reasons why adequate provision was not made for the care of the wounded at Perryville, and why, in defiance of the lessons taught by the history of our previous engagements, the scenes of suffering and destitution there witnessed were here repeated.

In answering these questions, it also points out the mode in which our modern civilization and more refined humanity can improve upon the methods of the past, and mitigate in great measure some of the darkest horrors of war. To enunciate more formally the proposition I have made—not a new one, as I am aware—*by the addition to the medical corps of a body of trained assistants, whose duty it shall be to gather up and remove the wounded from the battle-field, and perform for them the first necessary offices of relief; and entrusting to that department independent means of transportation and subsistence for the sick, much will be done to economise life, prevent suffering, and improve the health of the army.* If this be true, the subject demands our immediate attention and our most earnest and unwearied efforts.

At the time of the battle of Perryville, I was temporarily absent from the city, and received the news of the occurrence while on my way back. My place here, however, was well supplied by our veteran Inspector, Dr. Read, who acted in the emergency with his usual promptness and wisdom.

The measures which he adopted, and the results he accomplished, are simply yet graphically given in the accompanying report, which he has prepared at my request.

On my arrival, a few hours after he had left, I found the gentlemen composing the Louisville Branch of our Commission busily engaged in sending forward supplies in the ambulances which had been provided for him, with that view, by the Medical Director. Twenty-one (21) loads

went forward at that time, including, besides the ordinary supply of hospital stores, kegs of fresh butter, coops of live chickens, and things of that sort, which proved to be of inestimable value to those for whom they were intended. Through the intervention of my friend, Capt. S. Perkins, of the Quartermaster's Department, these ambulances were attached to an ammunition train which travelled rapidly day and night, arriving there much sooner than they could have done under any other circumstances.

Owing to the fact that the most important supply train forwarded by the Medical Purveyor was prevented for many days from reaching its destination, the value of the stores forwarded to Dr. Read was greatly enhanced.

Most of these stores were furnished from the depot of the Louisville Branch of the Sanitary Commission, but included large and most valuable contributions from Cincinnati and Cleveland. Subsequently, still further shipments were made, at my request, from these points, as also from Chicago, all of which have gone forward, and are now being distributed by Dr. Read and a corps of assistants which I have furnished him.

I should also mention that a delegation from the Cincinnati Branch of our Commission, consisting of several surgeons and a distributing agent, with stores, accompanied the ambulance train, and rendered important service in the care of the wounded. I regret to say, however, that the agent, for reasons best known to himself, refused to co-operate with Dr. Read, in the distribution of the stores.

At a later date a messenger arrived from Chicago, having Sanitary Stores in charge, which were also forwarded to the field.

I cannot close my letter without expressing my high appreciation of the promptness and energy with which the Louisville Associates engaged in the work of providing for the wants of the Perryville sufferers, as well as the disinterested and catholic spirit which controlled their action.

It gives me pleasure also to testify to the hearty and efficient co-operation of Dr. Head, Medical Director, and Dr. Mylert, Medical Purveyor, in this city. While fully alive to their responsibilities, zealously and faithfully doing their own duty, they afforded us every possible facility in the discharge of ours.

Very respectfully yours,

J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Sec'y West. Dept. San. Com.*

## REPORT OF DR. A. N. READ,

*Inspector U. S. San. Com., on the Measures of Relief afforded to the Wounded in the Battle at Perryville, Oct. 8th.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., OCT. 23, 1862.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Secretary Western Department San. Com.*

DEAR SIR—Immediately on the reception of the news of the late battle, I took such measures as were in my power for the performance of our duty in the relief of the wounded.

On application to Dr. Head, Medical Director, I obtained at once three Government wagons, and the promise of 21 ambulances, to be ready the day following. The wagons were loaded with stores from the Louisville Commission, and started the same evening for Perryville. I myself hired a buggy, and taking with me Mr. Thomasson, whom I had engaged to go with and assist me, pushed on as rapidly as possible.

We found the first hospital for the wounded at Maxville. This was a tavern, with sixteen rooms, containing 150 wounded and 30 sick, mostly from a Wisconsin regiment. Twenty-five were on cots; some on straw; the others on the floor, with blankets.

The surgeon in charge—P. P. White, of the 101st Indiana—had authority to purchase all things necessary. Flour was very scarce; cornmeal, beef, mutton, and chickens, plenty. There was no coffee, tea, or sugar, to be had. The cooking was all done at a fireplace, with two camp kettles and a few stew pans. The ladies of the town, however, were taking articles home and cooking them there, thus giving great assistance.

From this place to Perryville, some ten miles, nearly every house was a hospital. At one log cabin we found 20 of the 10th Ohio, including the Major and two Captains. At another house were several of the 92d Ohio; and the occupants were very poor, but doing all in their power for those in their charge. The mother of the family promised to continue to do so, but said, with tears in her eyes, she feared that she and her children must starve when the winter came. As at the other houses on this road, the sick had no regular medical attendance. I therefore prescribed for them and left them medicines.

We reached Perryville after dark, Mr. Thomasson giving his place in the buggy to a young soldier whom we found lying by the wayside, sick and unable to walk. I saw him placed in hospital and properly cared for.



On our arrival we learned that we were the first to bring relief where help was needed more than tongue can tell. Instead of 700, as first reported, at least 2,500 Union and rebel soldiers were at that time lying in great suffering and destitution about Perryville and Harrodsburg.

In addition to these, many had already been removed, and we had met numbers of those whose wounds were less severe walking and begging their way to Louisville, 85 miles distant. To these we frequently gave help and comfort by sharing with them the slender stock of food and spirits we had taken with us.

There had been almost no preparation for the care of the wounded at Perryville, and as a consequence the suffering from want of *help* of all kinds, as well as proper accommodations, food, medicines, and hospital stores, was excessive. For this state of things, however, the surgeons are not to blame. Both those in authority and those in attendance had done and were doing all in their power to prevent and mitigate the suffering to which I have alluded. The fault lies higher than they—with the superior military authorities, who withheld from the surgeons the information and denied them the resources which alone would have enabled them to meet the emergencies of the case. Dr. Marks, of the 10th Wisconsin, was in charge at Perryville.\* He received us kindly, took care of our horse, and gave us shelter. We slept on the floor. In the morning he secured for me two rooms, which were put in order, the three loads of goods taken in and opened, and a U. S. San. Com. sign placed over the door. Soon after the twenty-one ambulances arrived, loaded with our stores. At the same time came Dr. Goddard and Mr. Fosdick, of Louisville, Dr. Davis, Dr. Walker, and Mr. Johnson, from Cincinnati, (the latter in charge of supplies,) all of whom rendered efficient service.

Surgeons were then notified that stores could be had, and they were rapidly given out. There were, at this time, some 1,800 wounded in and about Perryville. They were all very dirty, few had straw or other bedding, some were without blankets, others had no shirts, and even now, five days after the battle, some were being brought in from temporary places of shelter whose wounds had not yet been dressed. Every house was a hospital, all crowded, with very little to eat. At the Seminary building there was some fresh mutton, and a large kettle in which soup was being made. I left at this house a box of bandages, comfortables, shirts and drawers, and a keg of good butter. Three days after, at this hospital, I found that the surgeons had improvised bedsteads, and had provided comfortable beds for all their patients from the stores of the Sanitary Commission.

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\*Dr. James Hatchett, Surg. U. S. V., soon succeeded Dr. M., and has since been the Surgeon in charge.



Leaving Dr. Goddard to superintend the further distribution of supplies, on the 12th I went with Mr. Thomasson to Danville. We here found the wants of the sick as urgent as those of the wounded at Perryville. The Court-House was literally packed; many had eaten nothing during the day, most of them nothing since morning. I inquired if soup could be made here. The surgeons thought not, but kindly gave me authority to get it if I could. Mr. Thomasson introduced me to some good Union men, through whose assistance I was enabled to succeed in the effort. It was now 5 o'clock P. M. There was no *beef* in the city, but the butcher agreed to bring in an animal, kill it, and have it ready in two hours. There was no *water* in the town—the wells were all dry—but the same good butcher sent and hauled water in barrels. Then there were no *kettles* for sale, all having been taken by the rebels; but at last one was found in a private family; another was discovered two miles out of the city, owned by Mr. John J. Craig; he sent that in, saying that he should not want it until hog-killing time, and would lend it. No *pails* were to be had for love nor money, but I bought some covered firkins with handles, a wash tub and spade, then dug trenches and laid stones with my own hands, and thus set both kettles. I made a fire of some old boards found in the Court-House yard, sent a soldier for some pepper and salt, and at half past 10 o'clock I had the satisfaction of seeing two 32-gallon kettles of nutritious and palatable soup ready for distribution. This was given out at once, but by other hands than mine, as by this time I was completely exhausted. The remainder of the beef was brought in in the morning, and the kettles kept boiling.

I should not forget to mention the very essential services rendered by Mr. Thomasson. He introduced me to the right men, and worked himself at anything and everything, and most efficiently. While at Perryville, feeling the disgrace of having numbers of the enemy's dead lying yet unburied, he called on Colonel Read, the commander of the post, and obtained a detail of negroes and *secesh* citizens, who worked two days, burying several hundred, and completing the task.

On the 15th, having with much difficulty obtained horses and saddles, we rode on to the advance of the army, then at Crab Orchard, reaching General Mitchell's Division, in General Gilbert's Corps, after dark.

On making a hasty inspection of the condition of the troops, I found that the new regiments had suffered much from the severity of the service they had performed, and the exposure to which they had been subjected. The men had made long marches, were without tents, had only one blanket or an overcoat each—some one, some the other—their food, hard bread and bacon; beef occasionally; no vegetables.

For new recruits, this had proved rather trying, and over ten per cent. had been disabled by it.

I found several of the regimental surgeons with no medicines whatever, and they informed me that they had received strict orders not to take any. Some of them told me they had a few medicines which they carried on their persons. The spirit of the army is not what it should be. Through distrust of the Commanding General,\* they are seriously demoralized.

On my return to Danville, I found the number of sick considerably increased. As there were many who were without shelter, I looked around to find some building where they might be carried, and, at least, have a roof over their heads. After some search, a carriage shop was found which would answer the purpose. This belonged to Mr. J. W. Welch. At my solicitation he opened it, had the carriages removed, and placed it at my disposal. I then procured two loads of straw, which was spread upon the floor, and two hundred men were brought in and laid upon it.

Returning to Perryville, I had the satisfaction of seeing the condition of the wounded considerably improved, thanks to the untiring exertions of the surgeons in charge, and the stores we had placed at their disposal.

They are still, however, far too much crowded, and their condition, in many respects, is susceptible of improvement. At the Seminary Hospital, the best of the series, there were seventy-nine wounded, accommodated as follows :

1st room,	25×25×10 feet,	22 beds,	6 nurses.
2d "	18×20×10 "	12 "	4 "
3d "	12×18×10 "	10 "	6 "
4th "	25×25×10 "	20 "	6 "
5th "	18×18×10 "	15 "	4 "

These were all badly wounded. At this time there were about one thousand of our men, and eight hundred of the confederates, having similar accommodations.

The Government supplies not having arrived, and more stores being needed, on the 18th I returned to Louisville, to report to you and procure further assistance. Ten tons of Sanitary stores, on five large wagons, have left to-day for Perryville, and I shall start to-morrow, with Messrs. Thomasson and Butler, to see to their distribution.

Yours, respectfully,

A. N. READ,  
*Inspector Sanitary Commission.*

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\* Since removed.

## REPORT OF DR. A. N. READ,

*Inspector U. S. San. Com., on a second visit, with supplies, to Perryville, Harrodsburg, and Danville, Oct. 23.*

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Associate Sec'y U. S. Sanitary Commission :*

DEAR SIR—According to arrangement, the ten tons of Sanitary stores left Louisville, on wagons hired for that purpose, October 24.

On the morning of the 25th I went by rail to Frankfort, and from there took the stage for Harrodsburg, arriving about dark. Messrs. Dunan and Duminiel, who left Louisville the day previous, joined me there. The next morning, on looking from my window, I saw that the ground was covered with snow to the depth of six inches, and the whole landscape had the aspect of mid-winter. My first thought was the sad one, that my son and 100,000 sons of other parents had passed the previous night within a few miles of the place where I was, with no covering but their blankets and this white mantle.

At an early hour I called on Dr. W. H. DeCamp, of Michigan Regiment Engineers and Mechanics, surgeon in charge at Harrodsburg, and stated to him the object of our visit. From him I learned that there were 456 confederate sick and wounded in hospital in the town, and 50 more in private families. In attendance on these were 16 surgeons, 16 wardmasters, 64 nurses, and 24 servants, all confederates.

Of Union troops there were 67 in hospital, and in private families 1. In care of them were 1 surgeon and 8 assistants, including stewards, cooks, and nurses.

Of the confederates, 330 were wounded, the remainder sick or convalescent. Of the federals, 6 were wounded, the others sick; 26 able to be removed.

After obtaining this information, we took up the examination of the different hospitals in detail.

In hospital No. 1, federal—a church—were 67 patients, 10 very sick; disease typhoid fever, diarrhoea, and pneumonia. The building was warmed by a furnace, and well ventilated. The inmates lay upon straw, or the seats, or floor, with no other covering than their blankets. Their food was hard bread, beef, and pork, with very imperfect means of cooking. The confederate sick and wounded were mostly in the buildings prepared for the reception of visitors at the Harrodsburg Springs. The first of them was in charge of Dr. Legare, of the Washington Artillery, of New Orleans. He had 40 patients, one or two without shirts, a few wanting drawers and socks, many having been received from sympathizing citizens of Harrodsburg and Lexington.



They were generally lying on straw, with but few bedsacks. Of blankets each had one or more. The other occupants of this series of buildings were in very similar condition. In the Methodist Church and College Hospital were 115, in charge of Surgeons Carlin, Wilkes, and Simpleton. They had no bedsacks; all with shirts, pants, and socks; some without coats; a few without blankets; the patients very dirty, their clothing poor, their food similar to that described above. All these hospitals were pretty well ventilated, but very badly policed.

Of medicines, there were almost none at Harrodsburg.

Several of the inmates of the confederate hospitals at Harrodsburg had on clothing which had been taken from the federal troops, and there was some complaint made that this had been, in some cases, taken from them forcibly. On asking the surgeons about it, they said they thought the only instances of the kind were when a confederate soldier was seen carrying a superfluous federal garment as an overcoat. In one of the hospitals, seeing a bright looking confederate soldier wearing a U. S. coat, with a good overcoat under his head, at my request, Mr. D., who was with me, asked him where he got it. He answered, very promptly, that he came honestly by it, and said further, that when lying wounded on the battle-field, and a cold rain came on, a federal soldier came up to him, asked him some questions, and seeing how much he was suffering, took off his coat and put it over him. "I never shall shoot that man," said the wounded man, as he finished his story.

Awaiting the arrival of our wagons, we rode over to Danville to ascertain the condition of the sick, and find where our supplies were most needed. On our return we brought back a small quantity of such of the most needed remedial agents as Dr. Shumard, the surgeon in charge there, could spare.

On Monday our stores arrived. A room was procured, and stocked with such a proportion of them as was thought best to leave at Harrodsburg.

At Danville we obtained from the Quartermaster, by Dr. Shumard's assistance, nine wagons, to be used in the transportation of our stores from Harrodsburg. On their arrival they were loaded up, and such things as were not left at Harrodsburg were sent on to Danville, they and we arriving there again on Monday evening.

At this time there were 1,450 sick in Danville, all, like those at Perryville and Harrodsburg, under the general supervision of Dr. G. G. Shumard, Surgeon of Volunteers and Medical Director. Though heavily burdened by the weight of his duties and responsibilities, this officer was working with most commendable energy, and, considering

the narrow limits of his resources, with very gratifying success. The sick had begun to be brought into the town on the 14th, twelve days before, and in my former report I have described the condition in which I found those who had then arrived, and the means taken to supply their wants. Since then very much has been accomplished toward making the greater part comfortable; but their numbers had increased so rapidly that the strength and resources of the surgeons had never been fully equal to the demand on them; and the instances of destitution and suffering were scarcely less numerous and aggravated than at the time of my first visit, when I made soup for them.

During this interval, either from the detention, or destruction by guerrillas, of the Government supplies intended for this point, comparatively little had been received through that channel, viz: 333 blankets, 500 pillowticks, 415 bedsacks; no special hospital food; no cooking utensils; very few medicines.\* As a consequence, there was a very pressing want of the stores we bought. This was shown by the very active demand which came for them as soon as their arrival was known.

Through the kindness of the Quartermaster who had furnished the teams to bring our goods, we secured a fine large storeroom, in which they were opened. On our first ride over from Harrodsburg we had notified the surgeons that supplies would arrive the next day, so that as soon as we were ready to distribute them, we had requisitions which would have carried off at once a stock twice as large as ours.

The condition of the sick at Danville at this time will perhaps be more accurately learned from the following extracts from my notes taken on the spot:

"1st. *Hospital No. 9*, a church, in charge of Dr. Scott, contains 78 patients, generally cases of typhoid fever, diarrhoea, and pneumonia, lying on the floor and benches, with a moderate supply of straw, no bedsacks, no pillows, several without blankets, no change of clothing, cooking done in three small kettles out of doors.

"2d. *Theological Seminary*, occupied half by federal and half by rebel sick. Of the federal there were 95 in two rooms  $45 \times 36 \times 10$  feet, a little over 300 cubic feet of air space to each individual, men generally on bunks, no bedsacks, no pillows, some without blankets; their clothing, such as they had worn in the field generally much soiled; cooking done in the open air in a few camp kettles. Confederates in ten rooms  $10 \times 10 \times 10$ . Their condition similar to that of the federals, except things were more filthy, their clothing much poorer.

"3d. *Methodist Church*, room  $63 \times 45$ , sick on benches, with some straw, 28 without blankets, in such cases men lying together, making one blanket cover two. No bedding, or change of clothing; cooking done in one 18 gallon kettle, camp kettle and a stew pan.

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\* Such was the want of medicines, that one of the surgeons paid a dollar from his own pocket for the only ounce of opium in town.

"4th. *Hospital No. 8*, a church, room  $72 \times 45$ , containing 65 men to-day, last night 128, all lying on the floor with little straw, no bedding, 10 without blankets; room heated by two stoves, with the pipes projecting from the windows, all closed. Weather still quite cold. Cooking much as at the hospitals previously visited.

"5th. *Episcopal Church*, room  $60 \times 40$ , containing 161 patients—not all sleeping there, some sleeping in other houses, some out on the ground, no bedding or change of clothing. Cooking done in one large and two small pots, and three frying pans.

"6th. *Court-House*, containing 64 sick on bunks, with mattresses and pillows. All had blankets; no change of clothing. Cooking done in the same soup kettles set by myself on the 14th, with some smaller utensils obtained since.

"7th. *A Church*, room  $60 \times 36$ , containing 74 men without bedding, 15 without blankets. Cooking done in two kettles and two stew pans, all borrowed.

"8th. *Jackson House*. A large private dwelling. Eighty sick in 8 rooms,  $18 \times 18$ ; all in comfortable condition, with good beds, blankets, pillows, &c. Cooking well done on large stove. This hospital was very clean throughout, and thanks to the care of Dr. Shumard, no part of the building was soiled or defaced."

These extracts will suffice to give you a correct idea of the condition of the sick before our stores had been distributed.

It will be noticed that they were much crowded, greatly in want of bedding, change of clothing, proper food, and means of cooking it, medicines, pails, mops, brooms, wash-basins, towels, &c., &c.; things indispensable in any effort to secure cleanliness of the patients or rooms.

Much inconvenience is also suffered in all the hospitals for the want of water closets, or any substitute for them. The only food obtainable for the sick, was the army ration for well men—hard bread, bacon and fresh beef, coffee and sugar. Milk, eggs, butter, chickens, vegetables, &c., are not to be had at any price.

Our stores distributed at Danville, consisted of comforts, sheets, drawers, pillows and cases, bedticks, towels, socks, potatoes, eggs, dried apples, butter, medicines, (a fine lot, the stock of the pharmacy on the hospital steamer *Lancaster*,) wines and spirits, sponges, bed pans, soap, chocolate, tea, mackerel, green apples, canned fruits, pickles, tinware, stationery, matches, &c.; all of which was exceedingly acceptable, so much so that we could have given out twice as many as we carried, on the requisitions that were made upon us on the day of our arrival.

After seeing our depot at Danville in good working order, and the process of distribution going on quietly and well under the management of Mr. Butler, we left him there and returned to Perryville. I here found the condition of the wounded greatly improved. The hospitals are still much crowded, and very many things are yet required before they can be reported as needing no further help. Several shipments of Sanitary goods had been received and distributed and a fair supply of



government stores had by this time arrived. The surgeons had manifestly been active and faithful, so that the appearance of the hospitals and their inmates presented a strong contrast to the not exaggerated picture which I gave of them when making a report of my first visit. We left at Perryville a portion of the stores which we took with us, but by far the larger part were left where the wants were greater.

There is still need at Perryville of exchanges of clothing of the wounded men, shirts, drawers, pantaloons and coats, many of the latter having been so mutilated or blood-stained, that they are unserviceable, and cannot, or ought not to be longer used. Of milk, butter, eggs, chickens, fruit, vegetables, &c., all of which are so desirable for the diet of convalescing wounded men, there are none to be had in the neighborhood, and the want is much felt.

What I have said of the condition of the wounded at Perryville is only applicable to those from the Federal army, the hospitals containing the Confederate wounded merit very little praise. They are as well supplied with bedding as the federal hospitals, but the clothing of their inmates is much worse. Their persons are also more filthy, and the police of the hospital is dreadful.

Among the Federal hospitals, that in charge of Dr. J. B. Bowling deserves especial mention, for the neatness of the wards and careful and thorough attention which had been given to the patients by the surgeon in charge.

Of surgical attendance there is and has been from the first enough. By the special order of Dr. Murray, a regimental surgeon was retained for every 50 wounded men, and now, by deaths and removals, the number of patients in charge of each surgeon does not exceed 30.

At Perryville, as elsewhere, I had frequent opportunities of observing the effect of the distribution of hospital stores—clothing and delicacies—to the sick or wounded of special regiments by special agents, and I am constrained to say that, wherever followed, this system works badly.

The surgeons don't like it, and it does not seem wholly acceptable to the recipients of the partial bounty. A case in point, which came under my own eyes, will illustrate this. Alphonso Jones, of Co. D, 10th Wis., lying seriously wounded in one of the hospitals where the agent of the State had been distributing gifts to the Wisconsin boys only, overhearing some expressions of disapprobation made to me by the surgeon in charge, spoke up and said, "I don't like it either; it made me feel bad to have things given to me, and not to the boy lying next me, but I made it all right—I divided with him."

On my return, I came through Lebanon, where I found Mr. Thomasson, who had been distributing at that point the stores of the Sanitary

Commission. Mr. T. came up with me, and reports a large number of sick as having accumulated there, on their way to Louisville. In these circumstances, the arrangements for their cure are of a very temporary and insufficient character, and they are in want of all the help we can give them.

Yours, respectfully,

A. N. READ, Inspector.

## DR. READ'S THIRD REPORT ON THE PERRYVILLE AND DANVILLE HOSPITALS.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Nov. 14, 1862.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Associate Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission:*

DEAR SIR—After completing the purchase of the articles of diet and the delicacies for the sick and wounded at Perryville and Danville, and securing transportation for them, I started on my third visit to those places, in company with the President and Secretary of the Soldiers' Aid Society at Cleveland—a branch which has sent us more goods, and sent them more promptly, and has given us evidence of more faith in the agents and inspectors of the Commission, than any other.

I ought, perhaps, to inform you of the difficulties our surgeons labor under for want of water, especially in Perryville. In my first report I wrote of the destitution in Danville, which was then occasioned in part by the increased demand made by the passing of our army twice, and Gen. Bragg's army once, through the town. The wells are partly filled again, but now most of the water is brought in carts more than a mile. The town contains about three thousand inhabitants. Perryville contained before the battle (300) three hundred inhabitants, and is entirely destitute of water—Chaplin Creek being entirely dry—the wells all dry—and all the water used at the hospital and by the inhabitants is brought from two springs one mile from the town. These were in possession of the enemy at the time of the battle, giving them a supply, (as the springs are large,) while our troops were destitute of water, and endured all the hardships which a soldier in battle must by such a privation. This want has been felt severely in the management of the hospitals. The water is impregnated with lime, and but little washing is done.

The wounded have been removed, so that there are now only 700 remaining. These are in a much better condition than they were at the time of my second visit. Most of them have a comfortable bed, (not very clean,) but not shirts and drawers for a change, with few exceptions.

The mortality has not been so great with the federals as with the rebels, but has been large, Erysipelas and Pyemia occurring often, and arising, principally, as I believe, from the over crowded state of the hospitals.

At Danville the improvement in the condition of the sick was more marked than at Perryville; the hospitals were all remarkably clean, the grounds around were well policed, and the means of cooking somewhat improved. On the 12th there were 925 patients, but the poorer hospitals are given up as the sick convalesce, so that even now they are over crowded, but not to the same extent as at first.

Louisville and Danville are, one 30 miles and the other 20 miles from Lebanon—the nearest point to railroad; and Lebanon is some 75 miles from Louisville. Lebanon is used as a resting place for the sick brought from Perryville and Danville, as well as permanent hospitals for the troops stationed there—some two regiments at this time.

Our local agents have distributed the goods left with them in a very satisfactory manner, so far as I was enabled to ascertain, the one at Danville keeping a list of many of the individuals who received assistance, as well as that given to separate hospitals.

Last, but not least, would I mention the very great assistance in both places received from the attention of the ladies. They have labored systematically, certain of them agreeing to visit each hospital daily, and have taken many of the choice articles of diet to the suffering.

The citizens of the surrounding country are also beginning to send in their donations quite freely. I think we shall not be required to send any very large supplies to these places after this, but must turn our attention to Bowling Green and Nashville, with which places communication has been interrupted, but which is now partially open, and where there is, without doubt, great suffering.

I would not close this report without again referring to the suffering and mortality which our soldiers have experienced from the over crowded state of the small, badly ventilated rooms they have been compelled to use as hospitals.

Our surgeons seem to have done all they could to remedy this, yet they often show what seems to me a morbid sensitiveness, that prevents their taking nice public school houses, or even charitable institutions which now contain but few inmates, and who could be made more comfortable elsewhere.

Our great want in this department is government hospitals. Since the war began there has been one built in this department, capable of accommodating eighty men—and one only. May not this, in a great



measure, be the cause of that fearful difference in the mortality of western troops over the eastern? And setting aside all questions of humanity, are not lumber and nails cheaper than men?

Yours, very truly,

A. N. READ.

LETTER OF DR. G. G. SHUMARD, MEDICAL DIRECTOR,  
DANVILLE DISTRICT.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,  
DANVILLE, KY., Dec. 20, 1862.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Assistant Secretary Sanitary Commission:*

DEAR SIR—Permit me through you to acknowledge my obligations to the United States Sanitary Commission, for the very efficient aid it has rendered me in furnishing supplies for the sick and wounded soldiers under my charge, at a time when they could not be obtained through any other source.

When the hospitals were first established in this district, we were almost entirely destitute of hospital and medical supplies, including almost every article necessary for the comfort of the sick. With an unusually large number of sick and wounded on our hands, we were compelled to see them suffer without the proper means of affording them relief.

The condition of things was immediately telegraphed to the Medical Purveyor in Louisville, and that officer with his usual promptness at once furnished everything necessary to render our sick comfortable, but from some cause the supplies were detained several weeks on the road, and were not received until long after those arrived that were sent by the Sanitary Commission.

Considering the large number of sick and wounded in the District, (between six and seven thousand,) and the almost total absence of everything necessary to render them comfortable, I have no doubt that the timely aid afforded by the Commission in this single instance has been the means of preventing much suffering, as well as of saving many valuable lives.

I trust that the Commission will be able to continue in its good work, and that it may have, as it certainly deserves, the thanks of every friend of humanity.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully,

GEO. G. SHUMARD, Surg. U. S. A.,

*Medical Director, Danville District.*

LETTER OF DR. J. G. HATCHETT,  
*Surgeon in charge of Hospitals at Perryville.*

PERRYVILLE, KY., Dec. 17, 1862.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

SIR—It is but just to the United States Sanitary Commission to say that the aid they have rendered to the wounded in the battle of Chaplin Hills has been indispensable. No one but an eye-witness can estimate the great advantage their supplies have been to the wounded. When the Government supplies shipped to us were detained in Bardstown and other places several weeks, theirs, by extraordinary efforts, were put promptly through, and came to our aid when we were perfectly destitute.

A large portion of the wounded coming from the battle field were *stripped* of their clothing. The bedding, clothing, and dressings furnished by the Commission were of inestimable advantage. Considering the great help rendered by the Commission, it is to be hoped that the people will be stimulated to greater efforts to aid them in their benevolent mission.

Your agent here, Mr. Flood, has been most faithful and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties. He has been scrupulously honest, seeing that nothing of the least value was misplaced. It is of some pleasure to the benevolent to know that their gifts always meet proper objects, and if the Commission can always secure such men as their agents, I am confident the public will give with a more liberal hand.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. HATCHETT,  
*Surgeon U. S. Vols., in charge*

REPORT OF DR. WARRINER,  
*Inspector San. Commission, on the late Battle near Corinth.*

COLUMBUS, KY., Oct. 23

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

MY DEAR SIR—I have just returned from Corinth, and the scene of the late desperate attempt of the rebel army to storm and capture that stronghold. My first duty was of course to the wounded, and my attention was directed accordingly. As you are already aware, the illness and absence of my chief assistant here, had made it impracticable for me to visit that field until a week or so after the battle. I was, however, ably represented—or rather the Commission was—through our agent, Mr. Goodsmith. At Jackson, when the battle occurred, he hurried to Corinth immediately that communication—which had been broken by the enemy just before the battle—was restored. Our stores at Corinth

were at the time nearly exhausted, and only a little less so at this place. At Jackson we had more, and a tolerably ample supply at Bolivar. Major Robb, the Illinois State Agent, and acting agent of the U. S. San. Com. at Jackson, had, but a few days previous to the battle, with my advice, established a temporary depot of supplies at Bolivar, and with stores derived from the depot here had stocked it for the dimly anticipated emergency. We had all been cherishing for some days glimmering apprehensions of battle somewhere, and from such data as could be gathered from outside observations, our attention was directed to Bolivar and Jackson, rather than Corinth, as the point where stores should be collected for the occasion. Hence this unequal, and, as the event proved, unfortunate accumulation at the point where the urgency of need was not the greatest, to say the least. The, to us, unexpected recoil of our troops upon Corinth, before the pressure of superior numbers, balked our calculations somewhat. Still, there was abundant demand for the supplies at Bolivar; for the battle, as you are aware, was not all fought at Corinth, although it was fiercest and deadliest there. The four days' pursuit following the great fight of Saturday, Oct. 4th, was a prolonged battle, and 470 of the wounded thence accruing were taken to Bolivar. Had stores been abundant at all these points, Bolivar had none too many. Meanwhile, every available article in our rooms at this point (Columbus) was pushed forward on the first train that traversed the route to Corinth after the battle. I had already received notice of a splendid shipment from Cleveland, Ohio, and another smaller one from Buffalo. Here I was expecting them by every boat from Cairo. They did not arrive under three or four days. After their arrival, we were delayed in their shipment to Corinth a couple of days, by what seems to have been a misinterpretation of an order from Gen. Grant to the Q. M. here, to ship nothing but forage. The General, on being remonstrated with by Major Robb, declared that it was never his policy or intention at any time to exclude sanitary stores that were immediately needed by the inmates of hospitals, whether wounded or sick; and an order in accordance therewith was issued at once, which secured to us every possible and needful facility for transportation. We have experienced no difficulty in regard to the matter since. Meantime, as bad luck, or overwork of R. R. agents, or perchance their neglect of duty, would have it, the limited supply mentioned above as having gone on the first train over the road, was not left at Corinth, but taken on to Chewalla, along the road to Memphis. It was some three days before they were recovered; so that altogether a trifle less than a week elapsed after that stormy and terrible Saturday, before the accustomed relief from the Sanitary Department arrived. The only urgent and pressing demand was for bed quilts, shirts, and drawers. All these



we had been steadily issuing, according to our supply, for some weeks, or I may say months. And although that supply was very considerable, it had not kept ahead of the demand sufficiently to enable us to meet this sudden emergency at any but the one point indicated above, viz., Bolivar. There, as I am assured by Major Robb, who made prompt and due inspections at the place, the supply was adequate to the demand.

But our stores arrived at the needed points at last, and in ample measure; and they came in time, at all events, to be an unspeakable blessing and comfort to the sufferers. It must be added here that the misfortune of this delay was greatly mitigated by the promptness with which Government supplies were forwarded, and the approximate fulness as to variety of these supplies. All needful surgical attention was also at hand, together with ample hospital shelter. The battle occurring on the verge of the town and near to the large general hospital, the wounded were saved the pain of a long ambulance ride on the one hand, and the necessity of lying on the unsheltered field, on the other.

At present, the wounded are all comfortably provided for in all practicable ways, and, taking all circumstances into account, I can say that no battle during the war with whose ghastly sequel I have been conversant, and connected with, has been attended with a slighter measure of suffering in proportion to the number of wounded, suffering arising from the lack of requisite shelter, appliances and attention, than the momentous and decisive "Battle of Corinth," October 4, 1862.

Surgeon N. Gray, in charge of the general hospital, Corinth, devoted, busy, faithful, and skilful, has worked like a hero, and worked with an eye single to the welfare and the relief of his patients.

I have not yet been able to obtain the exact number of the wounded from the late battle or *battles*. Dr. Gray estimates the number that had come under his care at a little over 1,500. The number placed in hospital at Bolivar, as stated above, was 470. None were sent to Jackson. Dr. Gray has sent nearly 1,000 from his hospital to Northern hospitals. A small portion of them have been sent to Mound City, and the remainder to St. Louis, and points still higher up the river. I am not aware that any have yet been removed from Bolivar.

A little over 1,500 of the enemy's wounded fell into our hands. A very heavy percentage of these have already died. The survivors, with a very few exceptions, have been placed in a separate hospital at Iuka. This town is at present on what is practically neutral ground. Our own Medical Director has general supervision of the hospital, but the surgical and other duties connected therewith are chiefly performed by the rebels.

Dr. Gray represents the patients there as being in a tolerably comfortable condition, and surrounded by their friends, the citizens of

the town. No requisition for sanitary stores had been made by their surgeon upon the Commission up to day before yesterday, the time of my leaving Corinth. Yesterday a telegram from Mr. Goodsmith informed me that he had received a pressing appeal for these from their hospital. He asked for articles before issuing them. I answered that in case of actual distress he should issue to them in limited quantities; and that he should announce to them, meantime, that this is our response to their treatment of Gen. Prentiss and his men.

I should like, by the way, further instructions from you in regard to this matter of issuing to rebel wounded. Where they are inmates of our own hospitals, occupying wards in common with our own men, the case is plain; but the circumstances and conditions of this hospital at Iuka are peculiar, and I have been in some doubt in regard to my duty in the case.

What say you? Can I improve the above order? Or how shall I modify it?\*

My attention has been arrested during the late inspection by the emphatic and uniform testimony of surgeons respecting the relative mortality amongst the wounded of the two armies. It is this, that with a given severity of wound, the mortality amongst the rebels is vastly greater than with us. And a concurrent fact, or brace of facts, is, that they were scantily clothed and meagerly fed. Their haversacks were either empty or held only ears of raw corn. A whole pair of shoes was nowhere to be found amongst them; and the rest of their clothing was in harmony. I cannot doubt the existence of an important and intimate connection between these several facts. The fighting of the rebels on every field where their desperate treason has encountered Yankee obstinacy and Yankee loyalty, has indicated no lack of prowess and of *active* physical vigor. But the power to endure wounds is strikingly inferior to that of our own men. This weakness was never more signally illustrated than in the late conflict. And the unhappy captives never betrayed a worse plight in the matter of commissary supplies than now. These facts are instructive, and hint at the appropriate treatment of wounded men generally. *High feeding*, for one thing, is certainly indicated.

Our supplies on hand at the present time are encouragingly large. Yesterday we received a splendid shipment from Cincinnati of comforts, shirts, drawers, and other clothing, and eatables. It came per Adams Express. We have also received large shipments from Chicago since the

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\* Our orders are to have all requisitions made by rebel surgeons for their sick on neutral ground carefully examined at the hospital itself, by our inspectors, and then supplied with proportionate care and humanity.—H. W. B.

battle, which, with lot referred to above from Cleveland, give us a quite ample larder.

I shall write you again in a day or two. I forwarded my accounts yesterday.

How about credentials for Fone, Fogle, and Goodsmith? Did you forget that?

Yours, cordially,

H. A. WARRINER.

We need one more man, and that is Mr. ———, in this department. I wish to establish a permanent depot at Bolivar. We *can* get along without more help, but can do it much better *with*.

I have no time to look this letter over. Excuse the blunders.

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We add a valuable unofficial letter from Dr. Warriner to the President of the St. Louis Western Sanitary Commission, on account of the importance of its general views. The letter was forwarded by Dr. Eliot as an expression of the co-operation of the Board at St. Louis with the Sanitary Commission:

COLUMBUS, KY., Oct. 25.

MY DEAR MR. YEATMAN—

Enclosed find receipt for your timely and welcome shipment of stores. The whole lot came to hand in good order some four days since. I only received your letter and the invoice this morning. I forwarded the stores, with others, to Corinth and Jackson at once. I think you are quite right in your views respecting the desirableness of sending such stores as you have to contribute to this department, to my care here. Everything we have is forwarded promptly. We have a depot trustily managed at Jackson, another ditto at Corinth, and a sub-depot at Bolivar. Our facilities for distribution are complete, and goods distributed through us are more likely to be given where they are most needed, and to be used with economy, than where they are sent from Northern depots direct. The simple reason for this is, that the parties who send to you, for instance, for supplies are just as assiduous in their applications to us as others; and they are not in the habit of informing us as to these extra outside supplies. The consequence is, that we inevitably give to them (or they inevitably receive) more than a fair proportion of these invaluable bounties. Had we a surplus of these, it would be all very well. I do not suppose that any one gets more than he can apply to the augmenting of his comfort; but vast as this outpouring of the people's generosity is—as our books, and store rooms, and army hospitals everywhere attest—you and I know full well that it has never passed, nor even reached the limits of demand. Any unequal



distribution, therefore, adds a *little* comfort in one place at the expense of *much* suffering in another. It is the study of my days and nights to equalize more and more this distribution.

Another objection to shipping goods directly to the field past this point, is the extreme uncertainty of their ever reaching their destination. We ship them along the R. R. through the Q. M., who feels more or less responsibility for their safe arrival. We know what we ship, and watch them through. If any boxes are lost, the responsible parties are promptly "nudged" up about it; and human nature being what it is, said parties, under said stimulus, will take a little pains with their work. You see at once how these conservative influences are wanting where goods are shipped in the other manner.

Respecting the policy of sending a corps of nurses immediately after a battle, I would say: First, their influences and the need for them are greatest in the very hours of the conflict, and diminish in geometric ratio with the lapse of time thereafter. It is plain, therefore, that they could never be at hand when most needed, unless they remain with the army. Second, I am fully persuaded, after much observation and reflection, that females can only be of valuable service in general hospitals, and there they should be permanently employed, if at all. I do not believe that the field is the place for them, either during or immediately subsequent to a battle. The case would be different if our surgeons and other officials had a better and truer appreciation of skilful female nurses. It would also be different if a large proportion of these nurses were of that admirable and efficient type sent forth under the auspices of the St. Louis Sanitary Commission; for I must do you the honor to say, that your selections in this respect have been more felicitous than any I thus far have met with. But taking all conditions into account, I cannot but think that ladies, under the circumstances in question, would encounter too many obstructions and too much personal inconvenience to be counterbalanced by the extra good they might do. Meantime, I have certainly no more confidence in my own wisdom than in yours, and I only give you my suggestions because you do me the honor to ask for them. The gist of my suggestion is, then, this: A corps of male nurses, sent to a given battle field, would be of inestimable service, if they could get there in season; a corps of female nurses would find their good services well nigh neutralized by the inherent inconvenience of their situation, and by the factitious obstructions which prejudice would at such a time throw in their way.

Hoping to hear from you again soon, I remain, cordially, yours,

H. A. WARRINER.

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 56.

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## DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTION

OF THE

# GENERAL HOSPITALS OF THE ARMY.

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## FIRST REPORT TO THE COMMISSION,

By HENRY G. CLARK, M. D., INSPECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 18TH, 1862.

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At its regular meeting, at Washington, D. C., in September, 1862, the Sanitary Commission resolved to undertake, at once, a special examination into the condition and wants of the General Hospitals throughout the country, occupied by the sick and wounded of the army.

With the large increase of the army, its sick and wounded were constantly growing in number, and the Hospitals provided for them already exceeded one hundred. While the strength of the army had been nearly doubled and the population of the General Hospitals more than quadrupled, the Staff of the Medical Inspection had not been at all augmented. Under these circumstances it was obvious that intelligent assistance from civil life would be acceptable. This aid the Commission resolved to seek amongst the best and ablest members of the medical profession, soliciting, for short periods, the services of men unable to leave their responsible duties for any length of time, and yet ready to help the national cause and that of humanity.

This duty was assigned to the Medical Committee, who commenced immediately the organization of a scheme for the special inspection of Military Hospitals. Invitations

were issued to more than a hundred medical gentlemen of assured position, throughout the loyal States, and the services of Dr. Henry G. Clark, of Boston, were secured, as Inspector-in-Chief. (See circulars A and B.) The Committee reports with gratification that its circulars of invitation have been uniformly respectfully considered, and about two-thirds of them answered by offers of service.

An efficient corps of Inspectors having been thus organized, and the approval and authorization of the Surgeon-General accorded to them, the duty was at once commenced.

The subjoined report of the Inspector-in-Chief, laid before the Commission, at its recent meeting in November, gives evidence of its successful progress.

*Extract from the Minutes of the Sanitary Commission, Tenth Session, Washington, D. C., November 8th, 1862.*

“Dr. Van Buren, on behalf of the Medical Committee, presented the Report of Dr. Henry G. Clark, as Superintendent of Special Hospital Inspection.

“*Resolved*, That the Report be accepted, and printed as a Document of the Commission, under direction of the Medical Committee.

“*Resolved*, That the President be instructed to inform Dr. Clark of the sense entertained by the Commission of the ability and efficiency with which his duties as Superintendent of Special Inspection are performed.”

From the minutes,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*General Secretary.*

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### A.

OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,  
823 Broadway, New York,  
1862.

SIR—The Sanitary Commission have commenced, and propose to continue until May 1, 1863, a special inspection of the General Hospitals of the Army.



There are forty-one in number in the District of Columbia alone, and one hundred and forty-three more in other parts of the country; containing, at this time, not less than 65,000 sick and wounded.

As this proposed service is additional to the duties of this nature heretofore performed by the Commission, and is for a higher purpose, they wish to secure the assistance of the best Medical and Surgical ability in the country for the work—as none but men of established position and character are able to carry the moral weight and influence with the Army Surgeons, essential to the practical success of this effort to secure the highest standard of professional excellence in the management of Military Hospitals.

The Commission propose to keep six Inspectors constantly employed East and West, and to accept the service of such as can serve not less than a fortnight, whilst they ask no service for more than one month. The most they can offer to the profession, in the way of remuneration, is \$250 per month.

You are respectfully requested to designate at your earliest convenience, the period, if any, for which you are willing to serve, and the precise date when you can most conveniently render the service. The Commission will, however, consider it a special favor if you will allow them to designate the time when your services will be most acceptable. If you can serve for two terms of a fortnight each, at an interval of three months, please so state. For the Western Hospitals a month's service would be preferred.

The Commission is anxious that this duty shall be undertaken with the earnest and unselfish purpose of securing for our sick and wounded soldiers, thorough and able hospital treatment, by the detection and removal of all defects in administration or professional care susceptible of remedy or improvement.

Full instructions as to the form of the Report required, will be furnished at the proper time.

Please address your replies to Henry G. Clark, M. D., Inspector-in-Chief, at the Central Office of the Commission, No. 244 F street, Washington, D. C.

By order of the Executive Committee,

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D. ,  
C. R. AGNEW, M. D.  
WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

SIR—In accordance with your communication of expressing your willingness to co-operate with the Sanitary Commission in its examination into the condition and wants of the U. S. Military Hospitals, you are respectfully requested to commence your tour of service on the \_\_\_\_\_ and proceed as follows ;

In the performance of your duty, it is the desire of the Commission that you should cause as little inconvenience as possible to the medical officers, of the hospitals you may visit, extending to them the deference and courtesy proper to their responsible position; and the Commission is confident that, as members of the same profession, with the same high object in view, you will be welcomed by them with equal courtesy, and every facility afforded you of obtaining the information you seek. It is proper to state to you that your visit is made by invitation of the proper authorities, and at the express desire of the Surgeon General of the Army, to whom a digest of your Report will be presented. If you should encounter any serious obstruction in the performance of your duty, please report the facts fully and promptly to Mr. OLMSTED, at Washington, and proceed without delay to the next Hospital in your circuit.

LOCALITY OF THE HOSPITAL; character of its site in regard to healthfulness; character of soil; prevailing winds; proximity of other buildings—of railroads—of navigable river; elevation; style of building.

NUMBER OF ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS; if employed by contract by Government; if so, if subjected to examination before employment, and by whom? Is there a surgeon's call?

NUMBER OF HOSPITAL STEWARDS, ward-masters, male and female nurses; estimate character and efficiency of all the officers of the Hospital.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL; examine "Morning Report," and judge if books are carefully and accurately kept.

GENERAL CHARACTER AND DEGREE OF GRAVITY OF CASES UNDER TREATMENT; proportion of medical and surgical cases; proportion of convalescents; are they properly returned to duty, or discharged the service?

Estimate the degree of medical and surgical skill of medical officers, and the humanity and kindness evinced by them, and also by the nurses.

At what hours are the regular visits made to the sick, and by what officers of the Hospital?

How often does the Surgeon in charge visit the wards?

RATE OF MORTALITY; success of surgical operations. Is there a dead-house? Are post-mortem examinations practised? Are pathological specimens preserved? Are burials conducted with propriety? Are means taken to mark graves, so that they can be recognized by friends? Are chaplains, or proper religious advisers, at all times accessible to the sick?

DIET; is it sufficient in quantity, and good in quality? suited to condition of patients? well cooked? served warm? sufficiently varied? Is the coffee and tea good? How often do the patients get fresh meat? Is the beef tea properly made, and freely provided? Is there a diet table—a copy of which is so placed in the wards that the patients may know to what they are entitled?

IS THE HOSPITAL FUND SUFFICIENT to secure an ample supply of milk, butter, eggs, chickens, ale, porter, and other delicacies and necessaries for the sick not included in the supply tables of the Commissary and Hospital Departments?

[Government Regulations allow the very ample ration issued by the Commissary Department to be drawn at its commuted value in money, by the Surgeon in charge of a Hospital, for the soldiers under his care, and this constitutes the Hospital Fund, with which all extras necessary for the sick are to be purchased under his direction. The amount of this fund, with proper management, is amply sufficient for the purpose for which it is designed. See Revised Army Regulations for Medical Department.]

Is the Hospital Fund allowed to accumulate whilst the sick are in want of anything?

Are the stimulants employed of good quality, and judiciously administered?

POLICE.—Is strict cleanliness observed in the wards—in their floors; in bedsteads and bedding; in clothing; in vessels used for food; spittoons,



bed-pans, sinks, and water closets? In the kitchen, and cooking utensils? In the apothecary shop?

Are the knapsacks and property of the soldiers properly cared for by the ward-masters?

Is the WATER SUPPLY ample, for washing, bathing, water-closets, and in case of fire? Is its quality good?

Are the provisions against FIRE complete? Are there fire escapes by means of windows in each ward, cut down to the floor, or other sufficient means of egress?

[Many Hospitals, being frame buildings, are particularly liable to the danger of fire, and the helplessness of the sick renders it especially necessary that ample provision should be made in every possible way, by fire engines, drilling the attendants, supply of buckets, care in use of lights and fire, ether, alcohol, camphene, kerosene, etc., etc., to secure their safety.]

What means are employed for lighting and heating the wards?

Is THE DRAINAGE completely provided for? Are the sinks, and drains and sewers of the Hospital liable to obstruction or overflow? Is there a free outlet for them at a safe distance from the Hospital? Where tents are occupied by the sick, are they provided with floors with a free circulation of air beneath them, and with provision against collection of rubbish? Are they secure against rain, and are trenches dug when necessary to carry it off?

Are the grounds around the Hospital buildings and tents kept clean?

Is the supply of fresh air ample, with all possible provision for VENTILATION?

What is the average air-space allowed for each patient? Floor space?

[This includes the all-important question of crowding the sick—a most common and fatal error. It is well to bear in mind that every sick man has a right to 1,200 cubic feet of air as a minimum estimate. By multiplying the length, breadth, and height of each ward, and dividing by the number of beds it contains, the answer to the question is obtained.]

Have continued Fever or Dysentery assumed a contagious character?

Have Erysipelas, Hospital Gangrene, or Pyæmia prevailed?

In such event, have the patients been promptly scattered?

Are deodorizing agents judiciously employed?

[In the absence of the chlorides of lime and soda, and the more common disinfectants, Gypsum or Plaster of Paris, Sulphate of Iron, and Coal Tar answer the purpose admirably.]

Are screens provided for isolating dying patients?

Is the supply of Laundresses and means of washing clothing and bedding sufficient?

Is there a sufficient supply of mattresses, bed-sacks, straw, blankets, sheets, and mosquito bars?

Is the straw used for bedding changed and burned at proper intervals?

Is there a sufficient provision of clothing, shirts, drawers, socks, and slippers for the patients?

[By recent law of Congress, enforced by the Secretary of War upon the Quartermaster's Department, soldiers who have lost their clothing through the casualties of war are entitled to an additional issue, without deduction from their pay. By another appropriation by Congress, provision has been made for obtaining, through the Medical Purveyors, clothing for sick in the Hospital, when from unavoidable deficiency, said clothing for the sick cannot be obtained through the proper channels, the Sanitary Commission will afford the necessary supply.]

Are invalided soldiers, discharged on certificates of disability, supplied with full information as to their rights under the pension law? and of the provision made by the Government for furnishing those who are mutilated, with artificial limbs?

Are patients kept closely cropped, and proper precautions taken against vermin?

Is there any lack of reading matter for convalescents? of games? of tobacco?

In addition to the foregoing, you are invited to furnish any further suggestions or details you may deem worthy of record.

In any case of doubt as to the nature of your duty, you will please apply to the General Secretary, at the central office at Washington, D. C.

It is desirable you should render yourself familiar with the Revised Army Regulations, as far as they concern the Medical Department, and also with all circulars and orders emanating from the Surgeon General's office.

By order of the Executive Committee,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

## NOTE.

Inspectors are reminded that their duties of inspection and report are *confidential*. It is especially desirable that as little as possible should be said with regard to the condition in which the Hospitals may be found, and their opinion of them, *beyond their official Reports*.

The questions are intended to be suggestive only—as aids to the memory, and to give general uniformity to the Reports.

As you progress in your inspection, if you find any abuses requiring immediate action, you are requested to make a prompt and informal Report of the same.

After completing your detailed Reports of the several Hospitals, (at the close of your inspection,) please add a final summary of the results of your observations, and of any general opinions you may have formed thereupon.

Please transmit your Reports, written upon alternate pages only, of what is known as “legal cap, long-fold” paper  $8\frac{5}{16}$  inches wide, noting, in red ink, on a wide margin, an index to the subject matter of the text.

HENRY G. CLARK,  
Inspector-in-Chief.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTION OF THE  
GENERAL HOSPITALS OF THE ARMY,  
SANITARY COMMISSION,  
November 18th, 1862.

To WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.

WALCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

Committee, &c., &c.:

GENTLEMEN—Early in October last, at your request, as communicated to me by the President of the Commission, immediately after the meeting of the Board in September, heartily, but with many misgivings, I assumed the direction of this department of your service.

It required some determination, and involved some decided efforts and sacrifices, to divorce myself suddenly from the professional and private cares which had, in the progress of many years, gradually grown up around me.

But *Providence*—as if in response to my thoughts of regret at having been for so long prevented from contributing my



share, in person, in aid of the brave men who are fighting for us—having, upon *your* judgment, shown me this way, I could not hesitate to accept your invitation.

I hope, with my best endeavors to that end, measurably to satisfy the just expectations of the Committee, although I shall not, I am sure, wholly satisfy myself.

Immediately upon accepting service, I engaged Drs. Bowditch and Ellis, of Boston, to come with me to Washington, and commence the work. Familiar as they both were with hospital administration and experience, I was sure that their work would be done in the most faithful and competent manner, and that with their aid, the inspection here, at least, would be well inaugurated.

Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York, had already, under the appointment of your Committee, completed a primary inspection of all the Hospitals in the District of Columbia.

Dr. David Judkins, of Cincinnati, had been detailed to inspect the Hospitals in that vicinity.

Dr. Joshua B. Flint, of Louisville, Ky., was inspecting at and around that place; and

Dr. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, at and around New York.

The above details were made by the Committee.

My own assignments have been as follows, viz.:

*At Washington and vicinity, and Frederick.*

Dr. Charles E. Ware, October 29th, one month.

Dr. Benj. S. Shaw, November 18th, half a month.

Dr. Morrill Wyman, November 5th, half a month.

*Baltimore.*

Dr. Edmond Fowler, of Alabama, one month, October 31st.

*Philadelphia and Baltimore.*

Drs. Borland and Hodges, of Boston, November 15th.

*Fortress Monroe, Norfolk, and Pt. Lookout.*

Dr. Francis Minot and Dr. Samuel L. Abbott, of Boston, November 19th (for two weeks.)

Dr. Charles E. Ware remains here, and will be followed in succession by Drs. Morland and Ayer, of Boston, the first on the 22d, the last on the 29th inst., for duty here and at Frederick.

I shall be able very shortly to detail Inspectors to nearly all the distant points, which I have hitherto been unable to do satisfactorily for want of a complete list of the General Hospitals of the U. S., which I have just succeeded in procuring.

The larger part of the Inspectors, thus far, have been drawn from Massachusetts, because they were more accessible, better known, and therefore more available to me in a work so comparatively new.

For the future I shall be able to avail myself more liberally and freely, of the talent now fortunately placed at the disposal of the Commission, and to make a more equable distribution of the privileges and labors of the Inspection.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Committee, and with my own judgment, I shall avoid any assignments to gentlemen in the immediate vicinity of their own circles of residence and acquaintance.

The several reports, I have the honor now to transmit, bear conclusive internal evidence, if any were needed beyond the unanimous expression of gratification, of the handsome manner in which the Inspectors have every where been received, and their objects facilitated.

A solitary rebuff only, the single exception necessary to prove the rule, occurred at one of the Hospitals out of this District, and this was so promptly rebuked by the Surgeon General, upon a report of the facts by the General Secretary, that it will not probably ever be repeated.

The Surgeon General, the Inspectors, and Surgeons generally connected with the army, both in and out of the Hospitals, have manifested great cordiality towards the Inspection, and to myself as the organ of communication between this Department and the Medical Bureau, the greatest courtesy and consideration.

The suggestions, contained in the reports, with regard to defects and evils found to be existing in any of the Hospitals, have, when transmitted, as they frequently are, by extracts, synopses, or verbally, to the Surgeon General, have invariably received his immediate and effective attention.

I only echo here the sentiments, repeatedly expressed, of the Inspectors, when I say that the condition in which they have found the great Hospitals of the Army, so far as they have been examined, has been to them a very agreeable surprise, that so much has been accomplished, in so short a time, and so well.

Examination of the Reports of the different Inspectors at different and consecutive dates, will also show, in many instances, a very marked and progressive improvement in the condition of the Hospitals inspected.

This improvement has, no doubt, been partly owing to the natural effects of time, and the better experience and opportunities of the officers in charge, but partly also, I am assured by the Surgeons themselves, to the friendly influence of the Inspectors, and of the establishment, in this way, of a sort of standard of excellence. In fact, it is impossible but that the opinions of men of standing and knowledge in the profession, should have its proper weight upon a class of earnest, hard-working, and many of them capable, men, upon whom the accidents of war have unexpectedly and suddenly cast the gravest labors and responsibilities.

I must not omit to notice here another instrumentality which has, in a very important degree, contributed, in my judgment, to the establishment of the "entente cordiale" between the Surgeons and the officers of the Commission.

It is the "ARMY MEDICAL SOCIETY;" which owes its origin to the far-sighted and thoughtful suggestiveness of the General Secretary, who, at an early day, invited the Surgeon General and the other Surgeons on duty in the District to meet the members of the Commission, at their rooms, for friendly conference upon matters of common interest connected with the administration of the General Hospitals.

The meetings have been fully attended, and the result has been the formation of a permanent society, which, with a very simple organization, takes cognizance of all matters relating to the Hygiene, the administration of Military Hospitals, and the care of their inmates.

The active members comprise the Surgical Staff within the District, and some of the officers of the Commission; but it



affiliates to itself, as associates, all the Surgeons of the Army and Navy, and all the Medical members of the Commission, inviting them all to contribute to its stores of knowledge, and inviting them to partake freely of its benefits.

I respectfully transmit with this, all the reports which have been received. They contain, as you will find, a very large amount of valuable material, of which, with future accumulations, I shall hope to make future use.

In conclusion, after having carefully examined these Reports, and having personally visited many of the Hospitals in this District, I feel bound to say in relation to them, that, in so large a field, it would be wonderful not to find some weeds—to start and put into working order the ponderous machinery of Hospitals which contain, in the mass, more than 70,000 beds, without any friction, would be a miracle. Let us, then, instead of criticising too sharply, rather admire the energy, the skill, the administrative capacity, shown in extemporizing and systematizing an agency so beneficent and so grand.

I remain, gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY G. CLARK,

*Inspector-in-Chief.*

#### LIST OF DOCUMENTS, &c., ACCOMPANYING REPORT.

1. Reports.—By Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York, on the Hospitals of Washington District.
2. “ By Drs. Henry J. Bowditch and Calvin Ellis, of Boston—Hospitals of the same District.
3. “ By Drs. Bowditch and Chas. E. Ware, of Boston, on the same Hospitals.
4. “ By Chas. E. Ware and B. S. Shaw, on the same Hospitals, and at Annapolis.
5. “ By Drs. M. Wyman (of Cambridge) and Ware in Washington District, and at Frederick.
6. “ By Dr. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, on the Hospitals of New York.
7. “ By Dr. David Judkins, of Cincinnati, in that vicinity.
8. List of the General Hospitals of the Army of the United States.
9. Copy of the Constitution of the “Army Medical Society.”

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 57.

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## REPORTS

ON THE

## Operations of the Inspectors and Relief Agents

OF THE

SANITARY COMMISSION,

AFTER THE

BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, DECEMBER 13, 1862.

By J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D., ASSOCIATE SECRETARY SAN. COM.,

AND C. W. BRINK, M. D., INSPECTOR SAN. COM.

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### REPORT OF DR. DOUGLAS.

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F. L. OLMSTED, Esq.,

*General Secretary, Sanitary Commission:*

SIR—The report of the “Battle of Fredericksburg,” Dec. 13, was brought to us by telegraph the night of the battle. The next morning a propeller was chartered, laden with stores, and with a special relief party, consisting of Dr. H. G. Clark, Dr. S. C. Foster, Dr. Swalm, Dr. Homiston, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Walter, all connected with the Commission, and, with Rev. Mr. Channing, Mr. Page, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Webster, volunteers, I started at evening for the front. The regular force of the Commission stationed with the Army of the Potomac at the time of the battle consisted of Drs. Andrew and Smith, Inspectors of the Commission, with Messrs. Haywood, Peverly, and Clampitt, relief agents; Dr. Smith having accompanied it in its march from Harper’s Ferry and Warrenton Junction, and Dr. Andrew, the senior Inspector on the Atlantic coast, being in general charge. Our floating depot, the propeller *Elizabeth*, with an efficient crew and well provided with stores, was at the Aquia landing when the battle commenced.

The regular party had been reinforced previous to our arrival by our Inspector, Dr. Brink, Mr. H. H. Furness, Mr. W. S. Wood, and Mr. Peck. Mr. W. H. Furness and Mr. Lambdin joined us two days after.

As soon as the movement for the crossing of the river was made, Dr. Andrew, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Clampitt proceeded to the front from Aquia, visited the field hospitals on the Falmouth side of the river, which had been organized in anticipation of a battle, and distributed several wagon loads of stores.

After our forces had gained possession of the city, by the successful crossing of the river on the 11th, these hospitals were abandoned and others established in the churches and dwelling-houses of the town, being nearer to the scene of the expected contest. This came on the 13th, and to these hastily prepared hospitals the wounded of that day's fight were removed. On the following Monday these buildings were, in turn, vacated, the wounded removed to the former field hospitals on the Falmouth side of the river.

We reached Aquia landing with our extra supplies at daybreak on Monday, and all of the party, with the exception of Mr. Abbott, Mr. Murray, and myself were immediately sent forward. They arrived in Fredericksburg to assist in the removal of the wounded to the field hospitals. Two wagons which we had brought from Washington were filled with stores and pushed on. Mr. Abbott, Mr. Murray, and myself accompanied them. Owing to the condition of the roads, the entanglement of our wagons in an ambulance train, and the overturning of one of them, night found us on the road. We were obliged to bivouac, and did not reach the front till the next morning in the midst of a severe rain storm. It was during this stormy night that the army, with a small remaining portion of the wounded, was withdrawn from Fredericksburg.

The wounded were all placed in tents, and, under the circumstances, were well cared for. Our camp had been located near the Phillips House, by Dr. Andrew, as being the most central position, and it was here that I found all of our corps,



both those who had come forward the day before and those who had preceded us.

Immediately upon my arrival, Tuesday morning, a thorough inspection of the whole field was undertaken, the labor was divided, and special duty assigned to each individual of the party. By noon all of the hospitals where the wounded were congregated had been visited, and the surgeons informed of our presence and the location of our depot of supplies.

Dr. Brink, after visiting the hospitals in the vicinity of General Burnside's headquarters, and those which had been opened in Fredericksburg, and upon consultation with the Surgeon General and the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, telegraphed to Aquia Creek for special supplies, so that we were completely ready to meet the demands of the occasion; and from that time till the wounded were all removed to general hospitals, the receipt and issues were steady and unintermitting.

The scene at our field station was a busy one. Could the contributors to the stores and the treasury of the Commission have heard the fervent expressions of grateful relief; could they have seen the comfort which their bounty afforded our brave wounded; could they realize by actual intercourse with the wounded, the suffering from, for instance, cold, alleviated by the abundant supply of blankets which their bounty had provided; could they have observed the change produced when the soiled and bloody garments were replaced by clean and warm clothing which they had sent, they would be eager to replenish our storehouses and keep our hands filled with the means to accomplish these purposes.

Early Tuesday morning, the rain subsided, the sun appeared, and the weather became clear and cold. The wounded were for the most part placed in hospital tents, upon a plentiful supply of hay. Blankets had to repair the absence of stoves, which, by some singular mistake, had arrived in a condition not to be used, the necessary stove-pipe not being included in the shipment. The supply in the hands of the Purveyor soon became exhausted from the unusual demands made upon him on account of the severity of the weather. Fortunately we were enabled to supplement his stores, and to answer his

calls upon us from the reserve of 1,800 blankets, and over 900 quilts which we had sent forward. Many of these were employed in covering the wounded during the period of their transportation by car and steamboat from the field hospitals to the General Hospitals at Washington.

It is with a deep feeling of gratitude that I have also to report that the last sad office could be paid to the dead, with an approach to the ceremonies of civil life, through the stores placed by us at the disposal of the surgeons of the hospitals.

The comfort of the wounded, and the result of the treatment of their wounds, were materially affected by the change of clothing provided by us. We had been able to get up to our field station 5,642 woolen shirts, 4,439 pairs woolen drawers, 4,269 pairs socks, and over 2,500 towels, among other articles. These were liberally distributed wherever the surgeons of hospitals indicated that there was a need. Certain articles of hospital furniture, of which there was a comparatively greater want than of anything else, were freely obtained by all surgeons at our station. Stimulants, I am happy to say, were in great abundance among the Purveyor's stores, so that the calls upon us were few. The same was generally true of food, and positively so of all kinds of medicinal articles which at other battles have been furnished by us. Nothing of the kind was asked for. In the article of food alone, we issued in one week, solely to hospitals, 16 barrels of dried fruit, 10 boxes of soda biscuit, 6 barrels of crackers, nearly 1,000 pounds of concentrated milk. The beef-stock we had brought up, was, I am again happy to say, not needed, there being a bountiful provision among the hospital stores, and fresh beef at command at all times, and in any quantity.

As rapidly as the wounded were attended to, and put in a condition for safe transportation, they were removed from the field hospitals to the general hospitals in Washington and Point Lookout. The removal was effected by ambulance or stretcher to the cars, by car to the landing at Aquia Creek, and thence to Washington by steamboat. The principal battle occurred on the 13th December, and on the 25th the last of the wounded were removed. The floors of both cars

and boats were well covered with fresh hay, and in addition to this, the severely wounded had mattresses or bed-sacks.

In order to meet whatever demands might arise for the proper sustenance of the wounded while on this trying journey, Mr. Knapp, our special relief agent, was dispatched from Washington to Aquia Creek to provide suitable accommodations for furnishing food or shelter at that point. A kitchen was improvised upon the landing, and the first night, meals were provided for 600 wounded brought down by the cars. Mr. Knapp was cordially assisted in this humane work by several members of the Christian Commission who were present at that place. Through the cordial co-operation of the Quartermaster of the port, Mr. Knapp had a building erected adjoining our portable storehouse, which affords shelter and a good bed to nearly 100 every night.

Our field operations have gradually diminished with the removal of the wounded. The details of the number of articles received and issued, the hospital to which they were issued, with the quantity in each case, and the acknowledgment of the surgeon, together with the account of the stock on hand on the 24th inst., I beg leave to present in the accompanying schedule. Our supplies were brought up from Aquia Creek in every case in charge of a special messenger. By the schedule it will be seen that all the division hospitals were visited and supplies furnished to them on requisition. Besides this, supplies were also issued to a number of brigade hospitals, and to over fifty regimental hospitals previous to my leaving on the 24th December. The issue to regimental and brigade hospitals was continued by Dr. Andrew after my departure, an account of which will be hereafter furnished.

I cannot close my report without referring to the organization of the medical corps of the army during and subsequent to the last battle. The plan proposed by the medical director of the Army of the Potomac, in his circular of October 30th, was first successfully carried into operation at this time. I can give no better idea of this plan, than by quoting from the circular itself:



HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, *October 30, 1862.*

In order that the wounded may receive the most prompt and efficient attention during and after an engagement, and that the necessary operations may be performed by the most skilful and responsible surgeons at the earliest moment, the following instructions are issued for the guidance of the Medical Staff of this Army; and Medical Directors of Corps will see that they are promptly carried into effect:

Previous to an engagement there will be established in each Corps a Hospital for each Division, the position of which will be selected by the Medical Director of the Corps.

The organization of this Hospital will be as follows:

1st. A Surgeon in charge.

One Assistant Surgeon to provide food, shelter, &c.

One Assistant Surgeon to keep the records, &c.

2d. Three Medical Officers to perform operations.

Three Medical Officers as Assistants to each of these officers.

3d. Additional Medical Officers and Hospital Stewards and Nurses of the Division.

The surgeon in charge will have general superintendence, and be responsible to the Surgeon-in-Chief of the Division for proper administration of the Hospital.

The Surgeon-in-Chief of division will detail one Assistant Surgeon, who will report to, and be under the immediate orders of the Surgeon in charge, and whose duties it shall be to pitch the hospital tents and provide straw, fuel, water, blankets, &c ; and when houses are used, to put them in proper order for the reception of wounded. This Assistant Surgeon will, when this shall have been accomplished, at once organize a kitchen, using for this purpose the hospital mess-chest, and the kettle, tins, &c., in the ambulances. The supplies of beef-stock, and bread in the ambulances, and of arrow root, tea, &c., in the hospital wagon, will enable him to prepare quickly a sufficient quantity of palatable and nourishing food. All the cooks, and such of the hospital stewards and nurses as may be necessary, will be placed under his orders for these purposes.

He will detail another Assistant Surgeon, whose duty it shall be to keep a complete record of every case brought to the hospital, giving the name, rank, company, and regiment, the seat and character of injury. the treatment, the operation, if any be performed, and the result ; which will be transmitted to the Medical Director of the Corps, and by him sent to this office.

This officer will also see to the proper interment of those who die, and that the grave be marked with a *head-board*, with the name, rank, company, and regiment, legibly inscribed thereon. He will make out two "tabular statements of wounded," which the Surgeon-in-Chief of Division will transmit within thirty-six hours after a battle; one to this office, (by a special messenger, if necessary,) and the other to the Medical Director of the Corps to which the hospital belongs.

There will be selected from the Division by the Surgeon-in-Chief, under the direction of the Medical Director of the Corps, three medical officers, who will be the operating staff of the hospital, with whom will rest the immediate responsibility of the performance of all important operations. In all doubtful cases they will consult together, and a majority shall decide upon the expediency and character of the operation. These officers will be selected from the division without regard to rank, but *solely* on account of their known prudence, judgment, and skill. The Surgeon-in-Chief of the division is enjoined to be specially careful in the selection of these officers, choosing only those who have distinguished themselves for surgical skill, sound judgment, and conscientious regard for the highest interest of the wounded.

There will be detailed three medical officers to act as assistants to each one of these officers, who will report to him and act entirely under his direction.

It is suggested that one of these assistants be selected to administer the anæsthetic. Each operating surgeon will be provided with an excellent table from the hospital wagon, and, with the present organization for field hospitals, it is hoped that the confusion and the delay in performing the necessary operations so often existing after a battle will be avoided, and all operations hereafter be *primary*.

The remaining medical officers of the division, except one to each regiment, will be ordered to the hospital to act generally as assistants and dressers.

Those who follow regiments to the field will establish themselves, each one at a temporary depot, at such a distance or situation in the rear of his regiment as will insure safety to the wounded, where they will give such aid as is immediately required; and they are here reminded that whilst no personal consideration should interfere with their duty to the wounded, the grave responsibilities resting upon them render any unnecessary exposure improper.

The Surgeon-in-Chief of the Division will exercise general supervision, under the Medical Director of the Corps, over the medical affairs in his division. He will see that the officers are faithful in the perform-

ance of their duties in the hospital, and upon the field, and that, by the Ambulance Corps, which has heretofore been so efficient, the wounded are removed from the field carefully and with dispatch. Whenever his duties permit, he will give his professional service at the hospital, and will order to the hospital, as soon as located, all the hospital wagons of the brigades, the hospital tents and furniture, and all the hospital stewards and the nurses. He will notify the captain commanding the Ambulance Corps, or if this be impracticable, the first lieutenant commanding the division ambulances, of the location of the hospital.

No medical officer will leave the position to which he shall have been assigned without permission; and any officer so doing will be reported to the Medical Director of the Corps, who will report the facts to this office.

Medical Directors of Corps will apply to their Commanders on the eve of a battle for the necessary guard, and men for fatigue duty. This guard will be particularly careful that no stragglers be allowed about the hospital, using the food, &c., prepared for the wounded.

No wounded will be sent away from any of these Hospitals without authority from this office.

Previous to an engagement a detail will be made by Medical Directors of Corps, of the proper number of medical officers, who will, should a retreat be found necessary, remain and take care of the wounded. This detail the Medical Directors will request the Corps Commanders to announce in orders.

The skilful attention shown by medical officers of this army to the wounded upon the battle-fields of South Mountain, Crampton's Gap, and Antietam, under trying circumstances, gives the assurance that, with this organization, the Medical Staff of the Army of the Potomac can with confidence be relied upon under all emergencies to take the charge of the wounded entrusted to its care.

JONA. LETTERMAN,  
Surg. and Med. Director.

From Dr. Brink's report accompanying this, it will be seen that in every division this plan was the one pursued after the battle of Fredericksburg. Having witnessed the operations of the Medical Department upon various fields in the East and the West, I cannot but express my admiration of the "prompt and efficient manner" with which the whole arrangement was carried out, to the honor of the medical corps, the advancement of science, and the credit of humanity.



The Ambulance Corps, as at present organized, has proved a success. Composed entirely of enlisted men, it is subject to the same regulations which govern all soldiers. Already an *esprit du corps* has arisen among them, and each division vies with the other for the palm of efficiency. It is recorded that a captain and sergeant of the corps attached to General Franklin's Grand Division lost their lives in the discharge of their duty; that the stretcher bearers pushed forward even to the skirmishers, and that their zeal in the performance of their tasks was unparalleled in the history of this war.

One great benefit of this thorough organization was particularly apparent at the time of the removal of the wounded from the hospitals. Trains of ambulances arrived at the station and departed in order, the wounded were transferred from ambulance to car with ease and care, and the whole machinery moved with the regularity of a well-appointed corps.

In most instances the wounded were accompanied to Washington by their own surgeons. This was particularly true of the more serious cases. At Aquia Creek, Dr. Warren Webster, U. S. A., had charge of the transportation, and everything was done by him to secure the well-being of the wounded. Extra clothing from our store-house was placed at his disposal to meet any deficiencies.

The watchful care, the cautious solicitude of the surgeons, and the general kind attention of nurses and attendants, should not be passed without notice. Individual cases there were, where, from constitutional indifference or inherent slothfulness, the medical officers or the attendants were derelict of duty, but these instances were rare, so infrequent, indeed, as not to affect the general opinion that no battle since the war commenced has found the medical corps so fully prepared for every emergency, or has witnessed such prompt, careful, and judicious performance of the necessary operations, such comparative immunity from suffering occasioned by a deficiency or absence of supplies. Too much credit cannot be accorded to Surgeon Letterman for the persistency with which he has inaugurated and carried out the present efficient plan of field division hospitals after a battle.

Much has been said of the demoralization of the army. I have seen no evidence of it. It does not exist in the constitution of the men of our climate to be turned back from any undertaking by one check, or to be disheartened even by a series of obstacles. Their temperament as men is not changed by their discipline as soldiers. If signs are to be believed, the Army of the Potomac to-day is, in firmness of purpose, in discipline, in soldierly qualities, stronger than ever, and more determined to merit by its deeds the high trust and confidence reposed in it by the country.

The observations upon this subject made by Dr. Brink, whose opportunities and experience in Europe and South America give them peculiar value, so well express my own views, that I shall take the liberty to quote them from his report:

“The general health of the troops is good; and with reference to their *morale*, after the battle, I have the testimony of experienced officers, in corroboration of my own opinion, that the army to-day is equal to any in the world. In their midst one feels that he is in an army of soldiers. The privations of the camp, the trench, the rapid advance, and the hurried retreat, and all the hardships of a winter's campaign, have increased their powers of endurance, strengthened their courage, and transformed raw recruits into resolute veterans.

“The recent terrible conflict has left their courage unshaken, and their confidence in their leaders is firm. Cheerfully performing the duties of the soldier, even the new regiments are becoming perfect in discipline. Instead of demoralization, they possess the moral qualifications necessary to insure speedy and complete victory.”

Respectfully,

J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D.

Assoe. Sec. San. Com.

Washington, Dec. 29, 1862.

## REPORT OF DR. BRINK.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 29th, 1862.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, Esq.,

*Secretary "U. S. Sanitary Commission."*

SIR—On the 13th December, intelligence having been received of the successful passage of the Rappahannock by the army under General Burnside, I received instructions to proceed to the field, and aid in forwarding the labors of the Commission.

Accompanied by Mr. H. H. Furness, I left Washington on the morning of the 14th inst., and the following day reached the field before Fredericksburg.

The attempt to storm the works of the enemy on the 13th resulted in a repulse, attended by great loss in killed and wounded. On the following Sunday and Monday, the entire army—beaten, but not dispirited—occupied the town, which, lying under the guns of the enemy, was completely at his mercy.

An immediate attack was feared; indeed whilst there, whither, accompanied by Mr. Elliott, we had gone to visit the hospitals, the enemy commenced throwing shell into the city.

Many of the wounded had been removed to the Falmouth side of the river, in anticipation of the evacuation of Fredericksburg by our forces; and those that remained were being hurried away, our reluctant retreat being hastened by these demonstrations of the enemy.

Favored during the night of the 15th inst. by a providential storm, the retreat was successfully made without resistance, and without loss of men or property; and the gallant army, having precipitated itself against the fortified heights in the rear of the city, was hurled back and almost miraculously saved from destruction.

Thus has occurred a repetition of defeat, which has again and again arrested the march of our army towards the rebel capital; and thus is written another brief and bloody chapter in the history of the great rebellion.



In anticipation of the battle, which, it was hoped, would drive the enemy from his entrenchments, ample preparations were made for the distribution of supplies to the wounded, upon the field, if necessary; and in the hospitals.

From the depot, in charge of Dr. Andrews, at Aquia Creek, stores had been sent forward to the front, and on my arrival opposite Fredericksburg, I found the work of relieving the wants of thousands of sufferers already begun. It was not, however, until the arrival, on the following day, of Dr. Douglas, that the operations were organized, and the labor of the corps systematized and made thoroughly efficient.

Then began the busy scenes so often re-enacted at the depots of the Commission near battle-fields—the most direct and efficient means that have yet been devised for succoring and saving the wounded being vigorously prosecuted, under the direction of Dr. Douglas, by a large corps of earnest operators. The recently organized hospitals were visited, and supplied with necessaries not provided by the medical department of the army. Food, clothing—woolen shirts, drawers, and socks—blankets, lint bandages, hospital and kitchen utensils—were liberally dispensed, and assistance was otherwise rendered to the wounded.

On no previous occasion has the accumulated wealth of the Commission been more liberally and judiciously bestowed for the relief of our brave soldiers: never before has there been so universal a recognition and acknowledgment by the medical department of the purposes of the Commission and of their value.

In order to appreciate fully the field of labor and its results, it is necessary to refer to the hospital organizations to which supplies were furnished.

The Army of the Potomac, of which Dr. Letterman is Medical Director, has three Grand Divisions—the Right, Centre, and Left—under the command respectively of Generals Hooker, Sumner, and Franklin.

The Grand Divisions have each two corps, consisting of three divisions; each corps having its medical director, and each

division its own hospital, under his supervision, and in charge of a surgeon.

Thus there were, in all, 18 division hospitals, either consolidated or independent; and these were all visited and their wants supplied.

The following tabular list of Division Hospitals, embracing all in the army, were visited by myself; Dr. Swalm having undertaken to visit and report upon those of General Franklin's Grand Division.\*

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\*In obtaining the data included in the following notes, which were for our guidance in the ordering forward and in the distribution of stores, we were obliged to take such information as was at our command. Of course, the reports of the hospitals were not, in all instances, made out at the early date of our application. The reports of the Surgeons of the Division Hospitals, it is right for us to say, were afterwards completed, and sent in to the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac. The same is true of the estimated casualties of the battle. The figures given in this report are the early estimates, and are not to be considered official. They are given here to show the plan pursued by the Inspectors of the Commission in ascertaining the necessities of the hospitals, and the proximate amount and character of stores most needed.

D. & B.

Maj. Gen. Burnside, Commanding Army of the Potomac.	Maj. Gen. Franklin, Left Grand Division.	{	Gen. Smith's Corps. Dr. O'Leary, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Brooks. 2d. " Gen. Howe. 3d. " Gen. Newton.
Dr. Jona. Letterman, Medical Director.	Maj. Gen. Hooker, Centre Grand Division, Dr. Moore, Medical Director.	{	Gen. Reynolds' Corps. Dr. Hurd, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Doubleday. 2d. " Gen. Gibbons. 3d. " Gen. Meade.
Maj. Gen. Sumner, Right Grand Division, Dr. Dougherty, Medical Director.	Maj. Gen. Hooker, Centre Grand Division, Dr. Moore, Medical Director.	{	Gen. Butterfield's Corps. Dr. Gregg, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Griffin. 2d. " Gen. Sykes. 3d. " Gen. Humphreys.
Maj. Gen. Sumner, Right Grand Division, Dr. Dougherty, Medical Director.	Maj. Gen. Hooker, Centre Grand Division, Dr. Moore, Medical Director.	{	Gen. Stoneman's Corps. Dr. Everts, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Birney. 2d. " Gen. Whipple. 3d. " Gen. Sickles.
Maj. Gen. Sumner, Right Grand Division, Dr. Dougherty, Medical Director.	Maj. Gen. Hooker, Centre Grand Division, Dr. Moore, Medical Director.	{	Gen. Couch's Corps. Dr. Taylor, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Hancock. 2d. " Gen. Howard. 3d. " Gen. French.
Maj. Gen. Sumner, Right Grand Division, Dr. Dougherty, Medical Director.	Maj. Gen. Hooker, Centre Grand Division, Dr. Moore, Medical Director.	{	Gen. Wilcox's Corps. Dr. O'Connell, Medical Director.	{	1st. Division.—Gen. Burns. 2d. " Gen. Sturgis. 3d. " Gen. Getty.



The following six Division Hospitals of General Franklin's Grand Division were visited by me less frequently than those of the other two Grand Divisions. Their reports were less full and they were earliest broken up, their wounded being all removed:

## DIVISION HOSPITALS.

### GEN. SMITH'S CORPS.

#### *First Division Hospital—(General Brooks'.)*

DR. BALLOU, Division Surgeon and Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near the river,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles (about) from the Phillips House, opposite Fredericksburg. Wounded in tents.

Was organized December 11, 1862, by Dr. Ballou, Surgeon in Charge.

Medical Corps consists of three Operating Surgeons and 9 Assistant Operating Surgeons, 1 Recording Surgeon, 1 Steward.

Admitted,	}	No report made.
Discharged,		
Died,		
Remaining,		

Supplies from Medical Purveyor, ample.

Deficiencies—stores, blankets, clothing. Will send requisitions to Commission.

All the wounded were sent away on the inst.

In this hospital there were also sick.

#### *Second Division Hospital—(General Howe's.)*

DR. WATERHOUSE relieved by Dr. WYNKOOP, Division Surgeon.

Situated near General Franklin's Headquarters. Organized Dec. 11th, by Dr. Ballou.

Medical Corps not fully organized.

Admitted,	}	Reports not made.
Discharged,		
Died,		
Remaining,		

197 wounded in this hospital.

Supplies were sufficient—except in blankets and clothing.

Wounded in tents. The inmates were to be speedily removed.

#### *Third Division Hospital—(General Newton's.)*

DR. HOLLMAN, Division Surgeon.

Situated near General Franklin's Headquarters. Organized Dec. 11th by the Medical Director of Corps.

Medical Corps—No report.

Admitted, do.

Discharged, do.

Died, do.

Remaining—37 wounded.

Supplies have been ample.

Deficiencies—blankets, clothing, (woolen,) and hospital utensils.

The wounded all removed.

In the Corps embracing the above 3 Division Hospitals there were reported 1,800 wounded.

## GENERAL REYNOLDS' CORPS.

*First Division Hospital—(General Doubleday's.)*

DR. SHIPPEN, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated (in tents) about one mile left of river. Organized by the Medical Director of Corps, Dec. 11th. Organized according to *order*.

Admitted,	} No report.
Discharged,	
Died,	

Remaining—about 306 wounded.

Supplies—*not* sufficient.

Deficient in stimulants; have no wine. Patients are all to be removed.

Was recommended to send requisition to the depot of the "Commission."

*Second Division Hospital—(General Gibbons'.)*

DR. WURDGRIST, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near the First Division Hospital, (in tents.) Organized by Medical Director, Dec. 11th.

Medical Corps complete.

Admitted,	} Not reported.
Discharged,	
Died,	

Remaining—about 1,000, all wounded.

Supplies not sufficient. Will call upon the Commission.

*Third Division Hospital—(General Meade's.)*

DR. PHILIPS, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near the above.

Organized by Medical Director, Dec. 11th.

Medical Corps,	} Not reported.
Admitted,	
Discharged,	
Died,	

Remaining—500 wounded.

Supplies very deficient. Need blankets, woolen clothing, stimulants, dressing, lint, bandages, urinals, cups, &c. Will send requisition to the Commission, but the wounded are to be removed as soon as possible.

## GENERAL BUTTERFIELD'S CORPS.

*First Division Hospital—(General Griffin's.)*

DR. OWENS, Medical Director.

DR. CHURCHILL, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near the Phillips House, in a valley, to the right (in tents.)

Organized on the 13th December, first in Fredericksburg, and removed on the 15th to its present site, by Dr. Little, under instructions of Dr. Cregg, Medical Director of Gen. Butterfield's Corps.

Medical Corps. This was full and was organized agreeably to the order of the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac. (A list of the names of the Medical Officers was given, but is lost.)

Admitted, 336.

Discharged, 160. (63 slightly wounded were returned to their regiments.)

Died, 20.

Remaining, 87.

Supplies are more adequate to meet the wants of the wounded than ever before.

Deficient only in stores, blankets, and woolen clothing; there was a large supply offered by the Medical Purveyor.

Dr. Churchill received additional supplies, for which he sent requisitions to the Commission.

### *Second Division Hospital—(General Sykes'.)*

DR. RAMSEY, Division Surgeon.

From this Hospital all the wounded had been removed when I visited it.

### *Third Division—(General Humphreys'.)*

DR. MCKINNEY, (acting) Medical Director.

DR. MARTIN, Surgeon in Charge.

Situated about 1 mile west of the 9th Army Corps Hospital.

Organized 13th Dec., in Fredericksburg, and removed across the river on 15th by the Medical Directors.

Medical Corps—complete.

The Hospital, 128 wounded.

The 3d Division has another hospital containing 450 sick, in charge of Dr. Cobb.

These, and the 1st Division Hospital, (Gen. Griffin's) are to be consolidated. The wounded to be immediately removed.

Supplies of every kind are said to be sufficient. Will send requisitions to the depot to meet the wants of the sick.

Deficient in utensils—such as are usually furnished by the Quartermaster.

All the above Division Hospitals are in *tents*.

## GENERAL STONEMAN'S CORPS.

### *First Division Hospital—(General Birney's.)*

DR. HUNKERS, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated at the *White House*, 1½ miles back of Falmouth, off the Belleplaine road.

Organized Dec. 9th, (before the battle,) by Dr. Hunkers.

Medical Corps. There were no regularly appointed operators, but Dr. O'Meagher, surgeon of the 37th N. Y. V., had charge of the operations. Six assistants were appointed. Have had operators from Robinson's Brigade to assist Dr. O'Meagher.

DR. CUMMINS, Recorder.

DR. TOWNSEND, Steward.

Admitted, (about) 1,000.

Discharged, (about) 800.

Died, 15.

Remaining, 168.

Supplies have been ample from the Medical Purveyor. Deficient only in blankets and warm clothing. Have sent to the depot of the Commission for them.

### *Second Division Hospital—(General Whipple's.)*

DR. JAMESON, (acting) Medical Director.

DR. HAYES, Surgeon in Charge.

Situation near the R. R., near the station adjoining Dougherty Hospital.

Organized Dec. 16th, (had hospital organized) in Fredericksburg on the 13th, by Dr. Jameson.



Medical Corps { Drs. Thompson,  
Hoop,  
Sane, } Operators.  
Three Assistants each.  
Mr. Hilt, Recorder.  
Messrs. Hunt and Shaw, Stewards.

Admitted, 75.

Discharged, 63.

Died, 12.

Remaining, *none*.

The Hospital is being broken up. (Dec. 19.) Supplies have been ample. Reserve hospital stores were on hand in the Brigade Hospital. Deficiency in woollen clothing and blankets were made up from the stores of the Commission.

### *Third Division Hospital—(General Sickles'.)*

DR. SIMES, Medical Director.

DR. IRVING, Surgeon in Charge.

*Situation*—The "Fitzhugh House," on the Belleplaine road.

Organized (at first only as a depot for wounded) on the 10th December, by Dr. Simes.

Medical Corps { Drs. Calhoun,  
McLane, } Operating Surgeons.  
Morrow, }  
Nine Assistant Surgeons.  
Dr. Munroe Recorder.

Admitted, 309 (both sick and wounded); 94 wounded, and only 54 severely.

Report of discharged and died not made out.

Remainining, 54, to be sent away.

Supplies more abundant than usual. Deficient only in blankets and clothing. Have received supplies from Commission.

### *First Division Hospital—(General Hancock's.)*

DR. KNIGHT, Division Surgeon.

DR. HOUSTON. Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near the Railroad, to the right of the Phillips House.

Organized December 15th, by Dr. Taylor.

Medical Corps { Drs. Wood,  
Grey, } Operators.  
Reynolds, }  
Tompkins, }  
Nine Assistant Surgeons.  
Dr. Kelsey, Recorder, and three other Assistant Surgeons to superintend the subsistence and other departments.

Reports of admissions, discharges, and deaths were promised, but not furnished. Supplies were not sufficient.

There were blankets enough, but a want of hospital utensils and stoves.

Soft bread and fresh beef were not served.

This and the following are called the Dougherty Hospital.

### *Second Division Hospital—(General Howard's.)*

DR. DWINELLE, Division Surgeon.

Situated near the Station, on the Railroad, half mile from the Phillips House.

Organized December 11th, by Dr. Dwinelle.

Medical Staff—Three Surgeons appointed operators ; each having three assistants : and others, constituting a full Corps. Names not obtained.

Admitted, 504.

Discharged, 150.

Died,  
Remaining, } Reports not made.

Supplies more full than ever before, yet have drawn freely upon the stores of the Commission for clothing, &c., to increase the comfort of the patients.

At this Hospital it was reported that there was great neglect on the part of Assistants, whose duty it was to attend to dressing. There was also great deficiency of hay and straw with which to fill bed-sacks.

### *The Lacy House Hospital.*

DR. DYER, Surgeon in Charge.

This is a Branch of the Second Division Hospital. Situated upon the high bank overlooking the river, opposite Fredericksburg.

Organized December 11th, by Dr. Dyer.

Medical Corps	{	Drs. Hayward,	} Operating Surgeons.
		Morton,	
		Rizer,	
		Nine Assistant Surgeons.	
		Dr. Prentice, Recorder.	
	{	Mr. Barrow, Steward.	

Admitted, 280.

Discharged, 50.

Reports not made of deaths or the number remaining.

Supplies were very insufficient. Had to wait for three days for necessary cooking and other utensils.

Stoves, blankets, and clothing very much needed.

Requisitions have been sent to the Field Station of the Commission, and filled.

### *Third Division Hospital—(General French's.)*

DR. G. GRANT, Medical Director.

DR. T. McEBRIGHT, Surgeon in Charge.

Situated adjoining the Dougherty Hospital. Organized December 11th in Fredericksburg—December 13th in the present site—by Dr. Grant.

Medical Corps	{	Drs. McEbright,	} Operators.
		Maul,	
		Lovejoy,	
		Three Assistant Surgeons.	
		Dr. Van Duzen, Recorder.	
	{	Mr. Bloom, Steward.	

Admitted, 580.

Discharged, 478.

Died, 17.

Remaining, 85.

Supplies abundant; many things for the comfort and convenience of the wounded were *appropriated* in Fredericksburg.

Have sent requisitions to the Commission for clothing and *stimulants*.

The above-named hospitals belonging to General Couch's Second Army Corps, are comprised under the name of Dougherty Hospital, though each is independent.

## GENERAL WILCOX'S CORPS.

*First Division Hospital—(General Burns'.)*

DR. JOHN E. McDONALD, Medical Director.

DR. PRINCE, Surgeon in Charge.

Organized December 10th, by Drs. Dougherty and Watson.

Medical Corps	{	Drs. Prince,	} Operating Surgeons.
		Luddington,	
		Bonnie,	
		Each has 2 Assistants.	
		Dr. Wood, Recorder.	
		Mr. J. M. Wood, Steward.	

Admissions, 245.

Discharged, 180.

Died, 6.

Remaining, 65.

Supplies generally are sufficient. Deficient in bandages, lint, blankets, and clothing.

Have received supplies from the Commission.

*Second Division Hospital—(General Sturgis'.)*

DR. A. T. WATSON, Medical Director.

DR. CALVIN CUTTER, Surgeon in Charge.

Organized December 11th, by Dr. Watson.

Medical Corps	{	Drs. Leonard,	} Operators.
		Hossaek,	
		Webster,	
		Six Assistant Operators.	
		Mr. Carpenter, Recorder.	
		— — — — —, Steward.	

Report of admissions, discharges, deaths, and number remaining in hospital not yet made.

Supplies abundant. After the 18th day even blankets were plenty. Clothing was furnished with other articles by the "Commission." The above, and other Ninth Army Corps hospitals, are all situated near the Phillips House.

*Third Division Hospital—(General Getty's.)*

DR. WHITCOMB, Division Surgeon in Charge.

Situated near General Burnside's Headquarters.

Organized December 13th, by Dr. O'Connell.

Medical Corps	{	Drs. White,	} Operators.
		Miller,	
		Warner,	
		Six Assistant Surgeons.	
		Dr. Cowles, Recorder.	
		Dr. Lee, Steward.	

Admitted, 283.

Discharged, 31. Others have been sent to other Division hospitals.

Died, 19.

Remaining, 39.

Supplies from the Medical Purveyor ample. Need some special stores. Will send to Commission.



The foregoing notes relative to the organization of the separate hospitals, were taken at the time of the visits, and comprised all that the records of the hospital would then afford. They are given without addition or emendation.

All the above division hospitals were visited, some of them repeatedly, and the surgeons in charge solicited to make requisitions upon the stores of the "Commission" for whatever was needed for the convenience and comfort of the wounded.

In consequence, however, of the provident care of the Medical Department, the Medical Purveyor was more amply supplied than on any previous occasion; there was, therefore, less pressing necessity for this form of relief, and less suffering than upon other memorable battle-fields.

Having completed this survey it was thought advisable to extend our labors to the regimental hospitals. Accordingly, instead of attempting to visit them in detail I first called upon the Medical Director of the Centre Grand Division; failing to find him, I addressed him a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"SIR—Having at the Depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission (near the Ninth Army Corps Hospital) large supplies of hospital stores, clothing, &c., and wishing to apply them to the relief of the sick as well as the wounded of the army, I beg, if that plan be agreeable, that you will communicate our wish to the Division Surgeons, and instruct them to inform the regimental medical officers where the Commission's depot is to be found, and invite them to send in their requisitions."

This request was repeated to the chief medical officers of the other corps of the army, and, all having acted upon the suggestion, requisitions from regimental surgeons came pouring in, and the labor of issuing greatly increased. From the medical director of the Centre Grand Division I received the following courteous note:

"HD. QRS. C. GR. DIVISION,  
"Dec. 22d, 1862.

"DOCTOR—For your kind offer of medical comforts for the sick in this Grand Division, in the name of the sick soldiers and medical officers, I thank you sincerely.

"I will have due notice given to the regimental surgeons, that those who are in want of such stores may avail themselves of your kind offer.

“ Permit me, through you, to thank the munificent Commission which you represent, for the generous offer of their stores and the promptness they have shown in getting them on the ground.

“ Very respectfully,

“ Your ob’t s’t,

“ JNO. MOORE, Surg.,

“ Dr. BRINK,

“ Med. Director Centre G. Division.

“ Inspector Sanitary Com.,

“ near Phillips House.”

On the 20th and 21st inst. several regimental hospitals of the Second and Ninth Army Corps were visited, the number of sick and their condition inquired into, and the surgeon advised to make application at the Depot for woollen clothing, blankets, quilts, special hospital stores, farinaceous food, &c. As a scorbutic tendency was beginning to be observable in some of the regiments, dried fruit and pickles were recommended and furnished on requisition.

On the 24th inst. I also visited the hospital of the First R. I. Cavalry, Col. A. N. Duffie, Commander. This hospital is situated at the Bullet House, near Potomac Creek Station, five miles from Fredericksburg. Dr. W. H. Miller is Surgeon in Charge. As his sick, 16 in number, were not fully supplied with necessary hospital stores, I reminded him that the Commission should be applied to for their benefit.

The following is a list of casualties, taken from the earliest reports of division commanders. They are the most accurate that could *then* be obtained, and embrace the losses of the three grand divisions of the army:

#### GEN. SUMNER’S RIGHT GRAND DIVISION.

Division.	Corps.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.
1st Division.....	2d	189	1,472	234	1,895
2d “ .....	“	106	683	96	885
3d “ .....	“	87	921	228	1,236
Art. of Reserve.....	.....	.....	7	.....	7
1st Division.....	9th	1	16	1	18
2d “ .....	“	85	841	296	1,222
3d “ .....	“	12	219	0	231
Total.....	.....	480	4,159	855	5,494

## GEN. HOOKER'S CENTRE GRAND DIVISION.

Division.	Corps.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.
1st Division.....	3d	105	620	173	898
2d " .....	"	10	84	4	98
3d " .....	"	19	91	18	128
1st " .....	5th	64	752	372	1,188
2d " .....	"	14	150	33	197
3d " .....	"	112	771	152	1,035
Total.....	.....	324	2,468	752	3,544

The above is the loss as far as ascertained up to the 15th inst. (Dec., '62).

## GEN. FRANKLIN'S LEFT GRAND DIVISION.

Division.	Corps.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.
1st Division.....	6th	23	124	50	197
2d " .....	"	21	158	5	184
3d " .....	"	6	47	10	63
1st " .....	1st	34	119	116	265
2d " .....	"	150	954	791	1,895
3d " .....	"	152	1,957	624	2,135
Total.....	.....	386	3,359	1,596	4,739

Total loss in killed, wounded, and missing, 13,777.

Before closing this report, I would again refer for a moment to the Medical Department of the Army. The most marked improvement is observable in all that pertains to the management and care of the wounded.

Instead of churches, dwellings, barns, and sheds being crowded, and many remaining unsheltered, as was the case at Antietam and elsewhere, after great battles, ample accommodation was provided in tents, blankets, and all essential hospital stores. Medicines and surgical appliances were fully supplied.

The ambulance corps is so improved, that it will, I believe, compare favorably even with that of France. The wounded were early removed from the field. The hospitals of Fredericksburg were evacuated without confusion, and all the wounded placed under shelter and carefully provided for.

But, above all, the organization of the Medical Corps for field and hospital service, to which reference is made by Dr. Douglas in his report, and which has been practically acted



upon, is deserving of the highest encomium. By this admirable arrangement, the suffering, wounds, and death, the legitimate results of war, have been alleviated more efficiently and promptly, perhaps, than ever before; and for this humane reform, the Chief of the Medical Department and the Medical Director in the field, merit unlimited praise.

It is especially interesting, too, in this connection, to notice the change in the sentiments of medical officers towards the Sanitary Commission. The relation that it holds to the Medical Department of the Army seems now to be fairly understood and acknowledged.

The general health of the troops is good, and, with reference to their *morale*, after the battle, I have the testimony of experienced officers, in corroboration of my own opinion, that the army to-day is equal to any in the world.

In their midst, one feels that he is in an army of soldiers. The privations of the camp, the trench, the rapid advance and the hurried retreat, and all the hardships of a winter campaign, have increased their powers of endurance, strengthened their courage, and transformed raw recruits into resolute veterans.

Knowing that final failure would denationalize the American people, the army will not succumb to defeat; and having just passed through a battle which, for severity, and for the heroism displayed, has few parallels in the annals of war, they are ready for still further sacrifice.

The recent terrible conflict has left their courage unshaken; and their confidence in their leaders is firm. Cheerfully performing the duties of the soldier, even new regiments are becoming perfect in discipline. Instead, therefore, of demoralization, they possess all the moral qualifications necessary to ensure speedy and complete victory. Having confidence in the sacredness of our cause, and faith in the justice of God, our army cannot fail.

C. W. BRINK, M. D.,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. Sanitary Commission.*

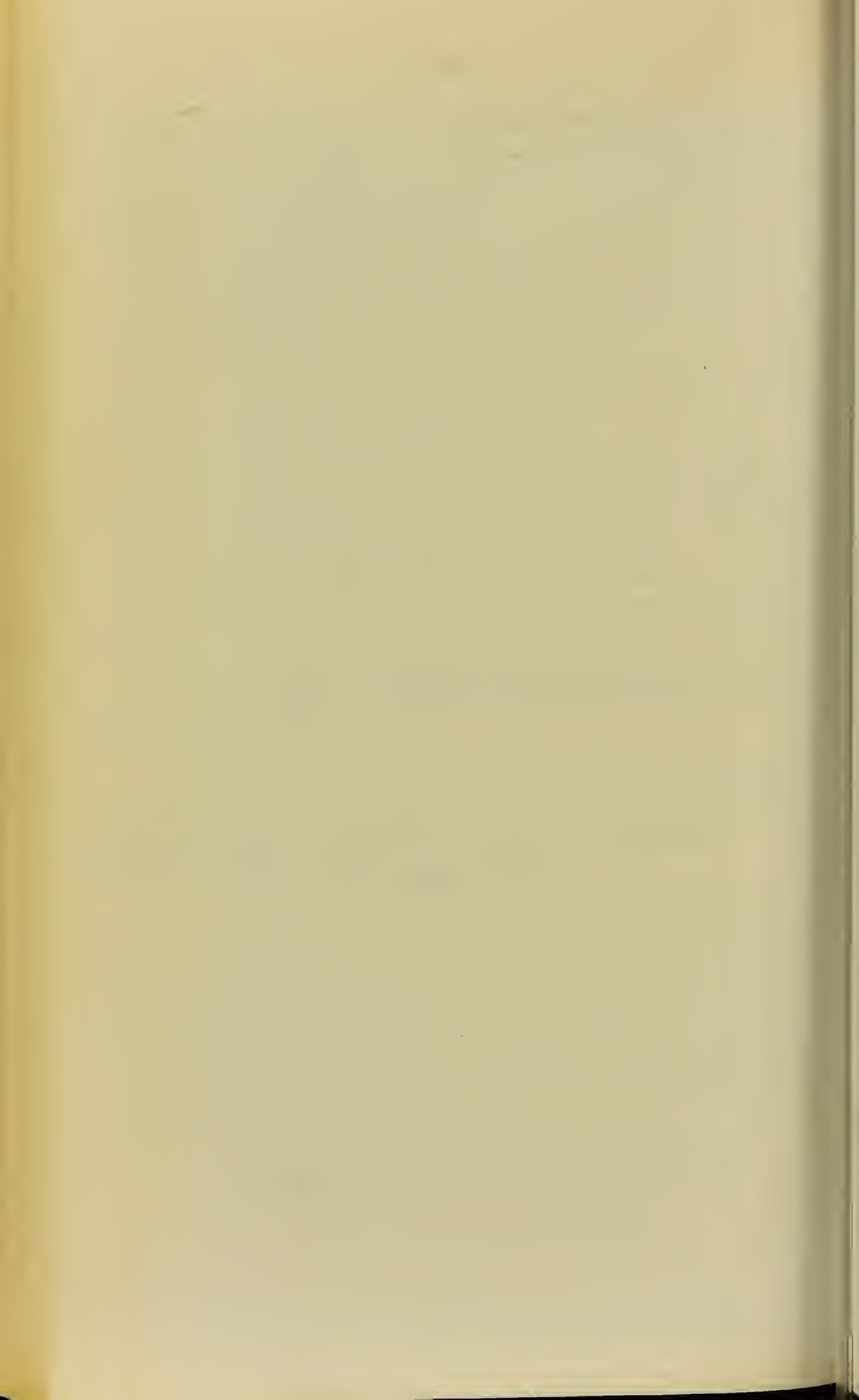
**No. 58.**

Relief of Disabled Soldiers. 8 pp.

JOHN ORDONAU, M. D.

(Feb. 14, 1863.)

Included in a Report on the same subject published in  
April, 1864.





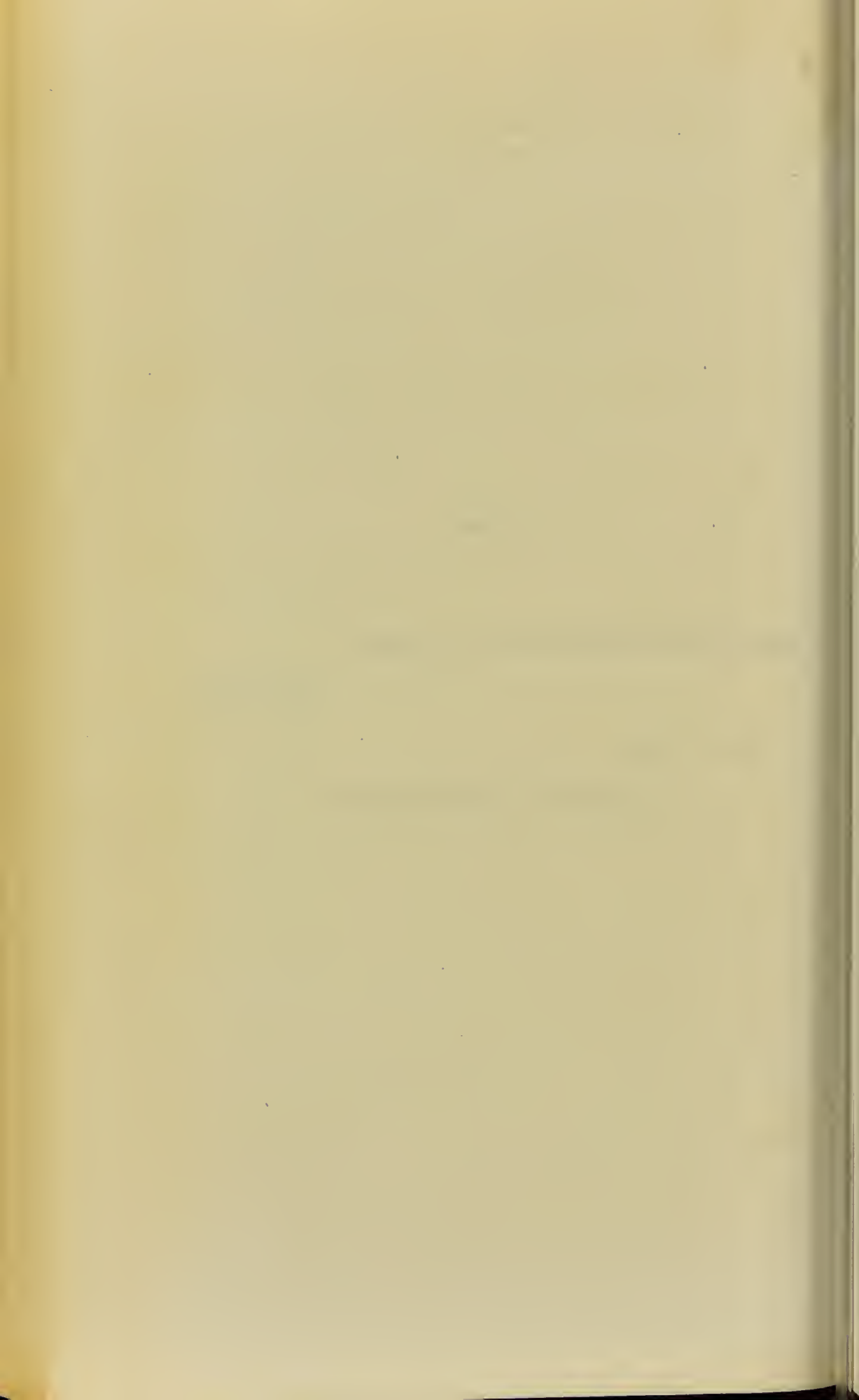
**No. 59.**

Special Relief Report—4th. 24 pp.

F. N. KNAPP.

(Dec. 15, 1862.)

Included in Document 59<sup>a</sup>.



# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 59<sup>a</sup>.

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## FOURTH REPORT

CONCERNING THE

### Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission

TO

SICK SOLDIERS PASSING THROUGH WASHINGTON.

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[SECOND EDITION. WITH A SUPPLEMENT, DATED FEB. 1, 1863, SHOWING CERTAIN ADDED MEANS OF RELIEF.]

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BY FREDERICK N. KNAPP, SPECIAL RELIEF AGENT.

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WASHINGTON, *Dec. 15th*, 1862.

TO FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary Sanitary Commission:*

SIR—My last report bore date of March 21st. In April I went to York river, in the hospital transport service, and was absent from Washington until August. For the first few weeks after I left, Mr. Henry B. Rogers superintended the work of Special Relief, thereby simply laboring still more largely in the field where he had before been working so faithfully and generously.

When Mr. Rogers left, and until my return, Mr. Francis Fowler acted as Special Relief Agent, in connection with the other duties assigned to him. His work during that time, I judge, was eminently humane, judicious, persevering, and efficient. Since my return, I have myself resumed the general charge of Relief, retaining until recently the assistance of Mr. Fowler, who labored with untiring patience, and really did by far the larger share of the work.



The main purpose kept in view in this agency has continued to be the same, with enlargement, as that set forth in my first report, viz., to lessen the hardships to which the ignorance of the sick volunteers and their officers of the forms and methods of government make them subject while in the city of Washington; and to provide for certain wants of the volunteers, when detached from their regiments, for which the Government arrangements had been inadequate, and which the regular Inspectors of the Commission, in their visits to camps and hospitals, could not attend to

Practically, the chief duty has been—

First. To supply to the sick men of the regiments arriving here such medicines, food, and care as it was impossible for them to receive, in the midst of the confusion, and with the lack of facilities, from their own officers. The men to be thus aided are those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a General Hospital, and yet need immediate care to guard them against serious sickness.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care and assistance to men who are honorably discharged from service, sent from general hospitals, or from their regiments, but who are often delayed a day or more in the city before they obtain their papers and pay.

Third. To communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men, whose certificates of disability or descriptive lists on which to draw their pay, prove to be defective—the invalid soldiers meantime being cared for, and not exposed to the fatigue and risk of going in person to their regiments to have their papers corrected.

Fourth. To act as the unpaid agents or attorney of discharged soldiers who are too feeble or too utterly disabled to present their own claim at the paymaster's.

Fifth. To look into the condition of discharged men who assume to be without means to pay the expense of going to their homes; and to furnish the necessary means, where we find the man is true and the need real.

Sixth. To secure to disabled soldiers railroad tickets, at reduced rates, and, through an agent of the railroad station,

see that these men are not robbed, or imposed upon by sharpers.

Seventh. To see that all men who are discharged and paid off do at once leave the city for their homes; or, in cases where they have been induced by evil companions to remain behind, to endeavor to rescue them, and see them started with through tickets to their own towns.

Eighth. To make reasonably clean and comfortable, before they leave the city, such discharged men as are deficient in cleanliness and clothes.

Ninth. To be prepared to meet at once, with food or other aid, such immediate necessities as arise when sick men arrive in the city in large numbers from battle-fields or distant hospitals.

Tenth. To keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers who are out of hospitals, yet not in service; and give information to the proper authorities of such soldiers as seem endeavoring to avoid duty or to desert from the ranks.

Such, in general terms, have been the main objects which have directed the labors of this agency, since my last report. I will state in brief some of the results of this labor.

But before turning to details I may say, that the record of these last nine months show that there was an urgent necessity for the aid rendered; that without this aid many hundreds or thousands of soldiers would have unavoidably suffered; that although the expense of maintaining this agency has increased, the amount of relief given has more than proportionately increased; and that the results seem fully to justify the care and cost. I may also add, in view of determining upon the course for future action, that the importance of this branch of our service—"Special Relief"—was never more evident than now—the number of soldiers rightfully claiming such help as we give them was never larger; our facilities for relieving them never better; that important changes for securing additional accommodations for comfort and neatness at the Home have been made; that the co-operation of Government officials is more and more free and cordial; that the Home is more generally known among the regiments

and the hospitals; that our whole system of Relief, at the same time that it is more comprehensive, is more exact and well defined.

The only fact we have to mention with regret, in reference to the future, is the failing health of Dr. Grymes, surgeon in charge of the Home. But though his step is feeble, he is daily at his post of duty for three or four hours, and brings with him the same kind-heartedness as ever, and the same earnestness of desire to do something to help the men who are suffering while fighting for the country's life.

Some of the statistics furnished by the records of the Home, and the Lodge in 17th street, are as follows:

*From March 20th to December 15th, 1862.*

Number of different individual soldiers received at the Home and the Lodge, 8,429.

Number of night's lodgings furnished, 22,698.

Number of meals furnished, 55,810.

Of the above 8,429, the number who have received medical attention is 4,350. This number does not include those whose wounds have been dressed by our surgeon or his assistant at the Retreat, or on the street on their way to the railroad station—this extra number sometimes amounting, immediately after the battles of July and August, to 40 in a day. Of the above 8,429, there were discharged from service and on their way home, 2,758.

Number sent to General Hospital from the Home, 536.

Number of deaths at the Home 11.

Three of the men who died had heart disease. Two who died under our charge, and many of those treated, were men sent from General Hospitals to return to duty. The process of making room in the hospitals for the wounded, under sudden emergencies, has repeatedly been a hasty one, and men have been ordered to their regiments who were not able to bear transportation, as the results too often proved; some coming under our care were returned to General Hospital, others passing into regimental hospitals only to die.

The smallest number cared for at the Home and Lodge any one night, 19—the largest number 229.



Average daily number, during April.....	55
“ “ “ “ May .....	74
“ “ “ “ June .....	62
“ “ “ “ July.....	51
“ “ “ “ August.....	62
“ “ “ “ September.....	92
“ “ “ “ October.....	109
“ “ “ “ November .....	136
“ “ “ “ December.....	194

Taking 7,000 names last recorded on the books of the Home, the distribution of these men among the different States is as follows:

Maine .....	459	Virginia.....	61
New Hampshire.....	198	California .....	2
Vermont.....	324	Michigan.....	329
Massachusetts.....	612	Ohio.....	206
Connecticut.....	109	Indiana.....	224
Rhode Island.....	82	Illinois.....	104
New York.....	2,302	Wisconsin.....	189
Pennsylvania .....	1,209	Minnesota.....	60
New Jersey.....	336	District of Columbia....	1
Delaware.....	34	U. S. Army.....	148
Maryland.....	25	U. S. Navy.....	5

The total cost to the Commission of maintaining the Home and Lodge during nine months past has been \$7,650 50; making the average amount spent upon each man cared for during that period, 90 cts.

Of the above total, about \$800 have been expended in furnishing transportation home to discharged soldiers, who were left without a cent of money or any legal claim upon Government—their amount due Government for clothing, more than balancing all the money due them on their final discharge, including travelling and subsistence fees. In each such case, it became simply a question with us, Shall this man, utterly destitute, be left to beg, or shall he be supported for an indefinite period by the Commission, or shall he be sent home at our expense? Economy pointed to the last above the second method, and humanity forbade us to adopt the first.

Of the above total, \$190 have been used for the railroad fare and expenses of agents of the Commission, who were

sent to accompany to their homes, and deliver to their parents or wives, discharged men, who, after they had obtained their discharge papers, were too feeble to be allowed to undertake the journey alone, but who in their longings repeated the heart's old story—one wish only—wanting to go home to die.

In connection with these statistics for the past nine months, I will give the figures which date back to the opening of the Home :

From Sept. 10th, 1861, to the present date, Dec. 15th, 1862:

Total number of individual soldiers received, 14,106.

Total number of night's lodging given, 36,866.

Total number of meals given, 81,760.

Total cost to the Commission, \$11,030 00.

The average cost of each man being 91 cts.

Part of the money expended has been used for improvements upon the Home which are of permanent value; the houses have all been thoroughly repaired and cleaned; another portable house put up at the end of the row nearest the railroad station; the lease of the entire lot bounded by two streets obtained, and the whole fenced in to exclude all nuisances and intruders. The fences and out-buildings have been white-washed, a bathing room has been added, with a washing and ironing-room, and many improvements made within the main building. A large room has been comfortably fitted up, warm, light and cheerful, where the inmates of the house can sit, and where they find, constantly, writing materials and books, and games for amusement.

It was found necessary for the cleanliness of the Home and the comfort of the inmates, to dispose of the old bedsteads and mattresses which had been in use for a year, and were made especially foul by the large number of returned prisoners—sick—who came back last spring, whom we cared for, fifty and a hundred at a time. Consequently, new iron bedsteads and new mattresses have been substituted.

Besides the officers previously in charge of the Home, there has been the addition of a matron, Miss Amy M. Bradley, an experienced nurse and admirable woman. She

has had entire charge of all that pertains to the neatness and comfort of the Home, excepting the culinary department; and the influence of her presence and the result of her efficient exertions are marked and admirable.

Mr. J. B. Abbott has been laboring for nine months as Superintendent, with great devotion and success. Until recently his services have been entirely gratuitous. Mr. Abbott has now assumed the duties of Assistant in Special Relief, in the place of Mr. Fowler, who has been appointed chief clerk at the central office. In the place of Mr. Abbott at the Home, is Mr. J. B. Clark, who, during the first six months after the Home was opened, was Superintendent—efficient and faithful.

Rules by which to regulate the whole administration of affairs at the Home have been prepared and printed, in order to secure as much system as possible. A copy of these rules appended to this report will indicate, perhaps, more fully the purposes aimed at in the work of the Home.\*

Arrangements were made some months since with various railroad companies by which we are authorized to furnish to any discharged or furloughed soldier an order which entitles him to buy from those railroads tickets at reduced rates of fare. It has been our endeavor to secure the advantages of this arrangement not only to the inmates of the Home, but to every man passing through the discharge office. A careful estimate shows the amount of money thus saved to soldiers on their orders for tickets at reduced rates, which we have issued since last spring, is not less than \$65,000. It is expected that these arrangements will soon be extended over other routes, and to more distant points. I hope also to arrange for through-tickets, so that we can see the baggage of each discharged soldier checked to his home before he leaves the station here. I am likewise endeavoring to have a ticket office opened by an authorized and responsible railroad agent close to the paymaster's office, where the discharged soldiers can buy their tickets at once, without the necessity of taking out their money again at the railroad station.

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\* See Appendix (A.)



For a while last summer we had two annoyances to contend with in our endeavor to assist discharged soldiers, viz., pickpockets, who found these sick and weary men easy prey; and certain railroad runners who tried to interfere with our ticket arrangements, telling the soldiers that the orders for reduced fare-tickets were worth nothing. Through Lieut. Col. Doster, the Provost Marshal, and Mr. Webb, Chief of Police, these wrongs have been mostly remedied. We have also had daily opportunity, by a watchful eye, to warn and defend discharged soldiers against men who are constantly laying hold of soldiers, whom they meet with discharge papers, and offering to render them "valuable assistance" in getting their pay speedily; often asserting falsely, that without such assistance the soldier would be long delayed, or perhaps defrauded; and for this promised service, the soldier is made to pay his three or five dollars.

The Lodge in 17th street is of great service, daily receiving the soldiers in the upper part of the city who are found there needing care. But the paymaster's office has now been removed from 17th street to the corner of 15th and F streets, near the Treasury building; and an urgent need was seen for some spot near at hand where we could receive and care for those sick soldiers who gathered and waited there. Sometimes there were seventy-five or one hundred collected on the side-walk, (two hundred each day is the average number discharged,) and among them many who were very feeble and others upon crutches, maimed. This large number of applicants for discharge and pay necessarily detains many of them there through the whole day; and want of food, and of a place to rest, causes much suffering to these men, many of them just out of hospitals.

To meet this need we have just built a small house, (16 by 70 feet, at a cost of about \$500,) nearly opposite the paymaster's office on F street, where provision is made to receive and render comfortable all who need rest and food. A table, which will seat fifty, is kept constantly spread, and a person is always at hand to give any information or assistance that may be needed by the discharged soldiers.

The paymaster in this department, Major Pomeroy, and his assistants, very cordially co-operate with us in endeavoring to secure to the disabled soldiers the comfort offered by this Lodge. Each soldier who presents his discharge papers at the paymaster's office, receives from one of the clerks there a printed ticket, which we furnish for the purpose. The ticket reads thus:

"The bearer, \_\_\_\_\_, an invalid soldier, will find a resting place and food, without charge, at the Lodge (No. 3) of the Sanitary Commission, No. 210 F street, opposite the paymaster's office."

This place has been opened but two weeks; during that time there have been each day over two hundred and fifty meals furnished there, and each night beds for about forty. This place is considered simply as a branch of the "Home."

Another branch just established is the "Home for Nurses;" here kindly care can be given to hospital nurses, when unwell or off duty, or just arriving, strangers in the city, waiting for a place of duty to be assigned them.

The chief work of aiding soldiers in getting their discharge papers and their pay, likewise in getting their pension papers, has fallen upon Mr. Fowler. I will therefore make the following extracts from the report which he has rendered of his work. He says:

"The business of aiding the soldiers in perfecting their discharge papers and getting their pay has been steadily continued, and, as heretofore, has been accompanied with delays and difficulties, some of which have been necessary, but others are attributable to the culpable neglect or ignorance of regimental officers who have in charge the accounts and papers. The movements of the army and loss of many officers have rendered the adjustment of these matters by mail communication unusually difficult. We think, however, that among the volunteers, as a whole, there is a better knowledge of army rules, and more fidelity in executing them. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the importance and interesting character of this branch of work. But it is suggested that means be used to extend its benefits.

“ We are indebted to the officers in the Paymaster’s, and to those of the Discharge office, for much assistance in the prompt settlement of the cases.

“ The applications for aid in securing pensions, arrears of pay, and bounties, though not numerous, have led to inquiries which have disclosed more or less deficiency in the provisions for transacting this business, causing delays very unjust to the claimants. In the Second Auditor’s office, to which claims for arrears and bounties are brought, there are now accumulated at least twenty thousand claims of soldiers; and although forty clerks were added last winter, the prospect of clearing the docket is affected by the fact that two hundred new ones are received daily, while one hundred are settled. I presented a poor widow’s claim for arrears of two months’ pay and the bounty. She had followed the Excelsior Brigade for ten months, doing washing for the soldiers. Her husband was killed at Williamsburg, while she was away under a doctor’s care, worn out with the work and exposures of camp life. When she came to me, she did not know that her husband was dead, but wondered he did not send her money. A fortnight passed before I could by any means learn the facts about him, when I communicated to her the sad intelligence, and sent her safely to her friends. But this woman, I was informed, must wait from six to ten months before her claim would be reached, and then some slight defect might throw it back in its order another six or ten months. I might have conveyed to her the comforting statement made to me, that the claims growing out of the Mexican war remained unsettled for three years after its close, and that in Europe such matters often rest on the hard-hearted shelves twenty years. Mr. E. B. French, the head of this office, anticipated the present state of the business, and exerted himself a year ago to prevent this accumulation; but the needed facilities could not be obtained.

“ In the Pension office, the work has been delayed by the accumulation of papers in the office of the Adjutant General; but this hindrance is in process of removal, and it will no doubt move on with vigor and dispatch, blessing the thousands



of dependent families who look to this public provision as a substantial help and solace, a shield, on the one hand, from alms-asking, and a recognition of honorable service on the other. The new pension law is simple in its details, as well as generous in its provisions, extending the rights to dependent mothers and orphan sisters, with other important improvements. In addition to the above standard claims, which came under our observation, are those of a more exceptional character: as for the re-issue of discharges, descriptive lists, and other papers that have been accidentally lost; for correction of alleged mistakes in accounts after receipt has been given, or when the captain or paymaster refuses to make it. Many of this kind in civil life would be adjusted at a glance; but under the present system there must be a formal application, supported by various evidence and depositions, sometimes impossible to be obtained. If authority were given to the Paymaster General to dispose of all minor and miscellaneous demands on such examination and evidence as would suffice in ordinary civil transactions, thousands of them could be promptly settled, by avoiding the slow processes incidental to formal claims. Mr. E. A. Brooke, chief clerk in his office, has shown much readiness to assume the responsibility of so doing in many instances.

“The calls on the Commission through the Special Relief Agent for information about soldiers in hospitals have been numerous; until recently the investigations involved in this work have taken much time, and it has not been uncommon for a long and repeated search to prove fruitless. But we have so often been able to restore the lost communication between the suffering soldier and his friends at a distance as well as personally assist those who came to this city on the sad errand, that, as a whole, we must regard the work as very satisfactory. How many have been aided in this way it is impossible to tell. After the Peninsula campaign opened, the work rapidly increased, and for weeks the town seemed to have received marked accessions to its population; but the anxious northern faces, just from home, could be easily distinguished, seeking neither gain nor office. At

that time the lists at the medical director's office and the hospitals were necessarily imperfect, causing delay and mistakes. Our rooms at times were crowded with inquiring friends. As in many cases the record of every hospital in the District was searched by the same party, it was often a vain as well as wearisome and expensive inquiry, and the father, mother, or wife returned home in their sore disappointment, when they had perhaps brushed by the very couch they were seeking. Much of this anxiety and unwise expenditure of time and money were owing to the common prejudice against hospitals, together with the hope of removing the sick or wounded soldier to his home. Confidence in general hospitals has in the meantime been increasing, which, with the publication of the strict orders respecting the removal of patients, has checked this action; and friends have learned to communicate by letter either directly with the hospitals, or through the Commission. Some chaplains have been very efficient in conducting such correspondence.

"It has been necessary to collect and daily examine and re-examine the lists published in all the leading papers. Friends have often sent inquiring, when not knowing that the soldier was in the District, or whether alive or dead. Hence examinations of muster pay rolls and correspondence with regiments have often been necessary. Notwithstanding all that has been done, the list of lost and unknown is a long one."

I may here remark that the delay and difficulties of obtaining information in regard to friends in hospitals, referred to in this extract from Mr. Fowler's report, was written in September, and consequently our labor in this particular direction is diminished. This is the result of the accurate and well ordered "Hospital Directory"\* established by the Sanitary Commission.

The number of men who apply to the Special Relief department of the Commission for advice or assistance in correcting discharge papers, or obtaining their pay, or getting

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\* See Appendix (B.)

transportation to their homes, averages now about one hundred daily.

Whenever men have been brought in numbers to Washington or to Alexandria, from battle-fields or hospitals, it has been the endeavor of this agency to minister at once to their relief so far as was possible. But three or four weeks since, we thus cared for 500 men at one time, rendering them essential service. Notice was sent to the Commission saying, "500 sick and hungry men are aboard of canal boats, on their way to Washington, from Edwards' Ferry. Can you do something for them?" Provision was immediately made, so that by the time the boats arrived at Georgetown, we were ready at the canal there with three wagon loads of supplies; enough to feed all these men; and the aid was timely, for at Leesburg, where they had been in hospital, the supplies had become very short, even before the men started upon the boats, on account of the difficulty of communicating with this port, the rebels having cut off approach from all points but one. After the boats arrived at Georgetown, some time necessarily elapsed before the ambulances could be summoned, and all these men distributed among the various hospitals; meantime the hungry were fed and cared for.

The arrangements have been continued by which we endeavor to lay our hand upon every soldier who is found in the city, wandering without care. The police constantly bring to us men whom they have found sick and needing assistance. With the same end in view, the guard-houses and railroad stations and saloons are visited by us. Benevolent individuals, throughout the city, have now learned the aid we seek to give, and they bring to the Home many soldiers who are needing help.

After stating thus the opportunity that is found for Special Relief, it is fit to call attention to the fact, that the occasion for this service exists, not on account of deficiency in the methods of executive working of the Medical Department; but they are only part of the many exceptional cases which must necessarily present themselves, under the most perfect system, where men are massed and to be cared for by hun-



dreds of thousands. While we see and seek for these exceptional cases, which call for special relief, we also see and gratefully recognize the wise, humane, generous, and persevering methods which are adopted and pursued by the head of the Medical Department, and by the medical officers under him. While special relief is doing what it may, there is a great, full tide of daily bounty poured out through the regular channels, never fully estimated, because it is in the ordinary course.

The service which is rendered by the Commission, through the agency of special relief, is appreciated, I think, by the soldiers and their friends. Many letters have come with expressions of deep gratitude. And though our record-book seems to indicate but a plain and dull repetition of common acts of relief, yet actual contact with the men themselves, day by day, shows how this relief, in itself slight, is a fresh good to each man who, in his turn, receives it.

Respectfully submitted.

FRED'K N. KNAPP,  
*Special Relief Agent of Sanitary Commission.*

## APPENDIX (A.)

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### *Regulations of "the Home" for Invalid Soldiers under the care of the Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.*

1st. This institution is to be considered a resting place, and not a hospital.

2d. The general purpose to be kept in view by the officers of administration will be this: to afford "aid and comfort" to invalid soldiers passing through Washington, who are on their way to their homes, or to hospitals, or to camp.

3d. Soldiers to be thus aided are:

Those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a general hospital, and yet need rest and care, and some slight medical treatment, in order to guard against increased sickness.

Men seriously sick, but who for the night are unable to reach the general hospital.

Invalid soldiers delayed in Washington while waiting for the completion of discharge papers and for their pay.

4th. As far as is consistent with the purposes of the Home, and humanity to the soldiers, the rule shall be observed that no men remain in the Home for a longer period than three days; but if any one is delayed there longer, his name shall be recorded a second time, and the cause of his detention at the Home stated on the record.

#### SURGEON IN CHARGE.

1st. The Surgeon in charge will be responsible for the right medical treatment of all soldiers in the Home who need his care. He is to have such general supervision and authority as are requisite for carrying out these purposes.

2d. He has the responsibility also of the ventilation of the several apartments, and the management of all things which pertain to the health of the inmates.

3d. By his order, men will be transferred to general hospitals or sent to their regiments.

4th. He will be expected to keep a daily record of his work and of all noteworthy facts or incidents; and once each month he will make a report to the Special Relief Agent of the result of his labors, with such suggestions for improved methods of action as may occur to him.

#### SUPERINTENDENT.

1st. The Superintendent will thoroughly inform himself of the condition of each man applying for admission to the Home, and he will receive none who have not a real claim, lest thereby he exclude others coming later in the day and needing more care.

2d. He will carefully guard against receiving deserters, or in any manner whatever encouraging men in remaining away from their regiments.

3d. He will not receive at the Home men who have a claim upon general hospitals, unless the emergencies of the case make the act necessary. (Such

emergencies are as follows: When regiments just arrived at the Station House are obliged immediately to move on to camp, and leave their sick unprovided for; when regiments, squads, returned prisoners, convalescents, arrive in the night, and their sick cannot be taken until the next day to general hospital.)

4th. When the house is likely to be very full, a careful discrimination will be made, in order to secure the benefits of the Home to those whose needs are most urgent, (excluding many, perhaps, who at other times would be received.)

5th. The Superintendent will not receive into the Home any man afflicted with a contagious disease, but will make some other provision for his comfort, as in no case is he to leave a sick man unprovided for.

6th. As officers are usually able to provide for their own accommodation, the Home shall be considered the place for non-commissioned officers and privates only, unless absolute sickness makes the exception necessary.

7th. The name of each man will be recorded as soon as he enters the Home, with his company, regiment, residence, cause of sickness, date of entrance, whether waiting for discharge papers, departure, whither gone, condition.

8th. The baggage of each man will be carefully marked as soon as he arrives, and placed in the baggage room.

9th. The Superintendent (informed by the Matron what beds are unoccupied) will assign quarters to the men as they are received.

10th. All men who are to leave in the early morning train will be placed together, so far as practicable, in one of the smaller houses.

11th. The Superintendent will furnish each day, at 10 A. M., to the Surgeon's Assistant, a list of all the men received during the previous twenty-four hours, who, in his judgment, need medical treatment.

12th. The Superintendent will see that all inmates of the Home, who are able to return to their regiments, or whose return to duty has been ordered by the Surgeon, shall be promptly started for their respective destinations.

13th. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent, daily, to call together all the newly arrived men who are delayed in obtaining the completion of their discharge papers or their pay, and give them such needed information as he may possess. Whenever additional information or assistance is required, he will, without delay, send such men to the Special Relief Agent of the Commission, with a concise statement in writing, of who the men are and how their case stands.

14th. The Superintendent will draw Government rations for the men, and give orders for the purchase of such articles of supply as are necessary for carrying out the general purposes of the Home,

15th. Once each week the Superintendent will make a concise written report to the Special Relief Agent, of the daily average number of men at the Home during the previous week; of any change of circumstances or new demands, which make a change of methods or larger provision necessary; with a record of all noteworthy facts which have come under his eye pertaining to the well-being of the soldier or the work of relief.

16th. All immediate expenses of the Home will be paid through the Superintendent, he rendering monthly an account of the same to the book-keeper of the Commission, with vouchers for all money expended.

17th. Whenever the Superintendent wishes to be absent from his office for any length of time, he will make such arrangement with the Surgeon's Assistant to take his place as may be mutually convenient.



## SURGEON'S ASSISTANT.

1st. The Surgeon's Assistant will, each morning, furnish to the Surgeon in charge a list of the men still in the Home who have been under medical treatment since arriving there, together with those men who have come in since the Surgeon's previous visit. The Assistant will bring to the Surgeon's office all men needing treatment who are able to go there, and will point out the beds of all the others requiring treatment.

2d. The Surgeon's Assistant will receive from the Surgeon all prescriptions, and see that they are obtained and administered.

3d. The Assistant will give all orders for medical supplies, and himself issue them, (except in cases of emergency.)

4th. The Surgeon's Assistant will take charge of all stimulants and clothing deposited in the Surgeon's office, and issue the same as needed.

5th. The Surgeon's Assistant will be responsible for the general control and management of the men while in the Home.

6th. The Surgeon's Assistant will be responsible for immediately transferring to the general hospital such inmates of the Home as the Surgeon in charge may order to be sent. He will also be responsible for obtaining admissions to hospitals, and all work incidental to this duty.

7th. The Surgeon's Assistant will have control of the ambulance stationed at the Home, for the special service of taking men to hospitals, (after which, the ambulance can be used for such service as may be required by any officer of the Home.)

8th. The Surgeon's Assistant will be responsible for having all men who need to be taken to the Home from the railroad station or Soldiers' Retreat promptly attended to; also for assisting men elsewhere found in the city or in camps, who are to be taken to the Home for relief.

9th. For the above purpose, he will himself, or through the General Assistant, visit the railroad station and the Soldiers' Rest at least three times daily, and inquire into the condition of the soldiers remaining there. He will also visit the railroad station upon the arrival of any regiment.

10th. It will be the duty of the Surgeon's Assistant to see that every man received into the Home is at once made thoroughly clean, and that all necessary under-garments and clothes are furnished to those needing them.

11th. When any inmate of the Home is dangerously sick, or in such condition that his friends ought to be advised of his situation, it will be the duty of the Surgeon's Assistant to write to his friends, informing them thereof.

## GENERAL ASSISTANT.

The General Assistant will aid the other officers of administration in doing the work assigned them, as may be required.

## MATRON.

1st. The Matron will have charge of all the rooms except the two offices, the kitchen, and the dining room.

2d. She will see that everything which is necessary for the relief of the inmates of the house (except such things as come under the immediate care of the Surgeon or his Assistant) is provided.

3d. She will have charge of the washing and ironing pertaining to her part of the Home. She will keep constantly on hand a supply of clothing, (besides that

kept in the Surgeon's office) to be dispensed by her to the men, as, in her judgment, occasion requires.

4th. She will see that all the soldiers in the Home are provided with means of writing letters; and where the men are themselves unable to write, she will see that some one offers to write for them.

#### HOUSEKEEPER.

1st. The Housekeeper will furnish suitable meals, at regular hours, to all inmates of the Home.

2d. She will receive at fit times, daily, from the General Assistant, a memorandum of the number she is to provide for.

3. She will be expected always to have such abundant provision made in advance as will enable her to furnish a comfortable meal to soldiers who may be brought in at unseasonable hours.

4th. She will herself, or through the General Assistant, purchase all necessary supplies, keeping a liberal stock on hand.

These Regulations are to be strictly observed, and the divisions of labor indicated are to be rigidly adhered to.

#### OFFICERS.

<i>Surgeon in Charge</i> .....	DR. J. M. GRYMES.
<i>Superintendent</i> .....	J. B. CLARK.
<i>Surgeon's Assistant</i> .....	P. J. McHENRY.
<i>General Assistant</i> .....	P. J. McHENRY.
<i>Matron</i> .....	MRS. A. E. RUTDGE.
<i>Housekeeper</i> .....	MRS. MARY MURRAY.

#### RULES FOR INMATES OF THE HOME.

All men entering the Home will at once report at the office of the Superintendent, and deliver their baggage to be checked.

All inmates of the Home are required to be quiet, orderly, respectful. Noisy talking and profane language are forbidden.

The men will remain in the respective wards in which they are placed by the Superintendent.

All inmates of the Home who are out during the day must be in the house before six o'clock in the evening.

Strict regard to personal cleanliness must be observed. All men must take off their clothes before going to bed. All who need clean clothing will apply to the Matron.

All men who need information about their discharge papers or other matters, as soon as they arrive, will make known their business to the Superintendent.

All men who have a sum of money with them are advised to deposit it with the Superintendent for safe keeping, taking his memorandum for the same.

All men who are ready to leave in the early morning train will inform the Superintendent the previous evening.

All who are not seriously sick, must be ready for breakfast at the time appointed. viz.: six o'clock in summer, seven o'clock in winter.

Any man who is intoxicated or under the influence of liquor, will be refused admission. Such men will be provided for in the Guard House or elsewhere.

Strict conformity to these rules will be required, and any man who refuses to obey them will not be allowed to remain an inmate of the Home.

## APPENDIX (B.)

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### *Directory of Hospitals.*

The Sanitary Commission have established an office of information in regard to patients in the hospitals of the District of Columbia and of Frederick City, Maryland. By a reference to books, which are corrected daily, an answer can, under ordinary circumstances, be given by return mail to the following questions:

1st. Is ——— [giving name and regiment] at present in the hospitals of the District or of Frederick City?

2d. If so, what is his proper address?

3d. What is the name of the Surgeon or Chaplain of the hospital?

4th. If not in hospital at present, has he recently been in hospital?

5th. If so, did he die in hospital, and at what date?

6th. If recently discharged from hospital, was he discharged from service?

7th. If not, what were his orders on leaving.

The Commission is prepared also to furnish more specific information as to the condition of any patient in the District hospitals, within twenty-four hours after a request to do so, from an officer of any of its corresponding societies.

The office of the Directory will be open daily from 8 o'clock a. m. to 8 o'clock p. m., and accessible, in urgent cases, at any hour of the night.

The number of patients in these Hospitals is about 25,000. If found to be practicable, the duty here undertaken locally by the Commission will be extended to include all the General Hospitals in the country.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*General Secretary.*

ADAMS HOUSE, 244 F STREET,  
Washington, D. C., November 19, 1862.





## SUPPLEMENT.

FEBRUARY 10TH.

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The following means of Special Relief have been added since the previous statement was made:

1st. "Lodge No. 3," in F street, opposite Paymaster's Office.

2d. "Home for Female Nurses," in G street.

3d. Additional help to men obtaining their discharge papers and pay.

4th. Agency for getting Pension Papers for discharged soldiers, without cost to the soldier.

5th. "Office" for sale of "through tickets," at reduced rates, to discharged and furloughed soldiers.

6th. Relief Stations, and safeguards to the soldiers.

### I.

*Lodge No. 3.*—The Lodge in F street was built early in December, to accommodate the discharged soldiers gathered daily at the Paymaster's for their pay. The need of this was urgent.

Cost of Lodge.....	\$535 00
Stoves, chairs, kitchen furniture, &c.....	61 00
Cost of extra supplies, and wages of cook from Dec. 8th to Feb. 8th....	352 00
	————— \$948 00
Number of Meals furnished at this Lodge, (No. 3, from Dec. 8th to Feb. 8th, (nine weeks).....	11,916
Number of nights' lodging, (nine weeks).....	1,980

## II.

*Home for Nurses.*—The following copy of a notice inserted in the public papers early in January will indicate in general terms, the objects aimed at in establishing this house:

*“Temporary Home for Nurses, U. S. A.”*

“The Sanitary Commission has opened a branch of its Washington Army Relief Station for the protection and accommodation of female nurses, temporarily detained in Washington by illness, or while waiting orders and unprovided with proper quarters by Government or friends. All such nurses will be made welcome on application at the office of the Commission, 244 F street.”

Scarcely a day passed that did not bring to us a number of nurses so situated that they needed assistance, which we could not give. They were alone, and often sick or worn down with service in the hospitals, and needed a few days of rest in a quiet home. Also, from time to time, mothers and wives, and sometimes daughters, would appeal to us for protection and help; they had come on from distant points to see a husband, or son, or father, who was sick in Field or General Hospital. These women, sad and weary, strangers here, and without friends, seemed to rightfully claim some help. The public notice advertising the “Nurses’ Home,” limits its inmates to “Hospital Nurses,” but we reserve the right to send there these other needy women when humanity seems to demand it.

A furnished house was hired and opened January 1, 1863. Mrs. Caldwell (wife of Prof. Caldwell, one of our hospital visitors) is in charge of the house; she is a woman eminently qualified for the position. When a notice is sent to the office that a nurse in some given hospital is sick, Mrs. Caldwell visits the hospital and informs herself of the condition of the nurse, and how best to care for her.

This Nurses’ Home has been in operation so short a time, that it has probably not yet become known to many women, who would gladly avail themselves of its comforts. But the



record stands thus: From January 1 to February 8, number of meals furnished at the "Home for Female Nurses," 287; number of nights' lodging, 159.

### III.

*Additional help to Discharged Soldiers in getting pay.*—An abstract of the report of work of aiding disabled soldiers, perfecting their papers, and securing their pay, gives the following figures: From November 21st to January 21st, (two months,) number of applicants at this office for assistance, or advice, 4,400. Number who have received such aid in perfecting their papers, or such advice or assistance in obtaining their pay as made a *record* important, 450. Amount of money collected during these two months for soldiers who were too feeble to go to the Pay Office and collect it for themselves, \$19,579 81. This has been in sums varying from one dollar to one hundred dollars, in each case the soldier's receipt being taken, and a record made. Some of these sums collected were upon papers which, except for the aid thus afforded by the Commission, would have left the soldier utterly destitute.

This is not because the officers connected with the Paymaster's Department are not doing their utmost to aid the soldier. They are; but it is simply impossible for these officers to give time to these individual cases, correcting mistakes or supplying deficiencies.

I will here insert the following extract from Mr. Abbott's note book. Mr. Abbott is Chief Assistant in Special Relief.

"During the last ten days, discharge papers of at least sixty soldiers have been received by us, and transportation home for the men secured to them, through the kind co-operation of Captain Lockwood, of the staff of the Military Governor. These men have been discharged without complete descriptive papers, consequently the date of last payment could not be given in their final statements. This date is usually ascertained from the rolls in the hands of their regimental paymasters; but, during the last ten days, nearly all of the paymasters have been absent with troops in the

field. Hence, the endorsement of facts necessary to enable these soldiers to get their pay could not be obtained; therefore they have left with us their papers to be completed, their pay secured, and sent to them."

#### IV.

*Agency for Pensions.*—The imposition frequently practised upon disabled soldiers by claim agents, as revealed by daily observations and a careful investigation, has shown the importance of establishing a Pension Agency, where the soldier can obtain all necessary legal assistance without cost and without exposure. A plan has been matured, which was approved and endorsed by the Commissioner of Pensions, and by the 2d Auditor; it was set forth in a letter of which the following is a copy:

"SANITARY COMMISSION, CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F St.,

"WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15, 1862.

"The Sanitary Commission propose to establish an office where discharged soldiers, entitled to pensions, can have their papers made out free of charge.

"The necessity of establishing such an office rests upon the fact that many discharged soldiers, ignorant of legal forms, and anxious to secure their money, are often cruelly imposed upon by so-called Pension Agents, who frequently induce soldiers who have no claim for a pension to believe that they are entitled to it, and that it will be obtained by these agents, provided the soldiers advance five dollars each for the service to be rendered.

"These agents, through their runners, beset the discharged men from the time they leave the door of the hospital, or even within the hospital, until they are in the ears for home. Unquestionably there are many good and honorable men among Pension Agents, who solicit the soldiers; but it is also equally unquestionable that there are men assuming that name who are without principle, and whose only aim is to secure money.

“The average number of men daily presenting their papers for pay at the office in Washington is about two hundred and fifty. Of this number it is estimated that from thirty-five to forty-five are entitled to pensions, (probably many more than that number apply for pensions.) Calling the number forty who thus pay each one five dollars to an agent, the sum of \$200 daily would be saved to the soldiers in Washington alone, were we to provide means for obtaining their pension papers for them without charge.

“Moreover, when a soldier with money in his pocket is once detained in the city, (even if but for a few hours,) he is exposed to various dangers.

“I propose establishing a Pension Agency, near the Paymaster’s Office, with such facilities as will enable any soldier who wishes it to file all necessary papers, and make the required oath for obtaining his pension, before he even goes into the street. This Agency will be conducted by men approved and endorsed by the Commissioner of Pensions, and by other public officers, and all papers will be transferred directly from this Pension Agency to the Pension Office, the service thus rendered to be entirely without cost to the soldier. Notice of this Agency to be conspicuously posted in the Paymaster’s Office, at the Hospitals, and wherever it is most likely to meet the eye of the soldier.

“FRED’K N. KNAPP,  
“*Special Relief Agent.*

“FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
“*General Secretary Sanitary Commission.*”

“The plan proposed in the foregoing paper meets my cordial approbation.

“JOS. H. BARRET,  
“*Commissioner of Pensions.*”

“I heartily approve of this plan, and believe that it must accomplish its benevolent and praiseworthy object.

“E. B. FRENCH,  
“*Second Auditor of the Treasury.*”



A suitable building for the office has been secured from Government within the grounds of the Paymaster's Office, and an experienced agent engaged, (William F. Bascom, Esq., of Middlebury, Vt., acting District Attorney in that State,) who was suggested by the Commissioner of Pensions as a man by integrity and ability eminently qualified for conducting the business.

The number of soldiers who would be assisted and protected by this agency, (as determined by examination of the last 15,000 discharge papers at the Adjutant General's Office, and by consulting the books of the General Pension Office,) would probably be about 1,000 each month. The cost of maintaining this Agency will be about \$250 per month, making the cost to the Commission of the aid given to each soldier about thirty (30) cents, a service for which he now pays \$5. Thus, on this estimate, the cost of 1,000 pension papers would be \$5,000 monthly, while the cost of working our Agency will be about \$250.

## V.

“*Through Tickets.*”—Arrangements have been nearly completed by which *through tickets* will be furnished to discharged soldiers at reduced rates of fare. The following Circular was submitted to the Presidents of four of the most important Railroad Companies, and by them approved; and the General Ticket Agents of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, have been appointed to correspond with other railroad and steamboat companies and complete the working plan. Government is now building us a suitable office for the above purpose.

The money thus saved to soldiers in Washington alone will be very great; the cost to the Commission almost nothing; except to see that the benefits when offered are understood by the soldiers. Steps will at once be used to secure these tickets to soldiers at all the railroad stations in all the principal cities where they are likely to be needed, extending

to the most western wing of the army, wherever there are railroads and steamboats.

*Circular.*

SANITARY COMMISSION, CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F ST.,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *Jan. 16th*, 1863.

It is desired to have at Washington a ticket office where "*through tickets*" over the various railroad and steamboat routes can be furnished to discharged and furloughed soldiers, at Government rates.

Great inconvenience and often serious suffering to sick soldiers result from the present arrangement. These men are obliged to purchase their tickets at different points along the road, thereby frequently losing the through train on which they leave Washington, and being weak and strangers, they are worried and delayed. Moreover, being obliged to take out their money at different railroad stations, they are thereby exposed to the eye and hand of men who are constantly lying in wait for discharged soldiers, seeking an opportunity to rob them. Not a day passes but soldiers are robbed at stations, or in the cars, or in the cities where they are thus delayed waiting for the next train. Therefore, it seems eminently desirable to have an arrangement by which a ticket agent (capable, experienced, and honorable) can have an office, (which will be provided with all facilities, free of rent, by the Sanitary Commission, near the Paymaster's Office,) where *through tickets* over all the routes can be bought at reduced and uniform rates of fare.

Where there are rival routes, it may be so arranged that the soldier himself, shall decide which route he will take without any influence being used to persuade him to select one rather than another. In cases where soldiers have no preference, an equal division of tickets can be made over these rival routes. Thus with an office which will probably be established, also near the Paymaster's, for collecting pensions without charge, the soldier can be prepared to leave the city at once, and not take out his money again until he reaches his home, and thereby avoid great exposure and annoying trouble.

Over two hundred (200) soldiers daily are discharged at Washington. The aggregate suffering which would be daily saved to them by the arrangement proposed, would be great.

It will be desirable, after this system of through tickets is perfected, to extend its benefits to discharged soldiers leaving any of our principal cities.

The co-operation of presidents of railroad and steamboat routes, is earnestly desired.

FRED'K N. KNAPP,

*Special Relief Agent San. Com.*

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary San. Com.*

## VI.

*Safeguards to Soldiers, and Relief Stations.*—In order to guard the soldiers against falling into the hands of sharks, and to inform them of the assistance rendered by the Commission, large hand bills (of which the following is a copy) have been posted in all the hospitals in this vicinity.

“Discharged Soldiers can obtain all needed information and assistance in regard to their papers, at office of Sanitary Commission, 244 F Street; also a Resting Place and Food, Without Charge, at the Lodge (No. 3) of the Sanitary Commission, No. 210 F Street.”

Tickets directing the bearer to the Relief Agency of the Commission, or to some one of the Lodges, have been printed, and placed for distribution in the hands of surgeons on the front, and those at hospitals, as well as in the hands of our own agents and inspectors who are with the various divisions of the army, or at relief stations, (as at Aquia Creek, and at Convalescent Camp.) When a soldier is discharged, and is leaving for Washington, one of these tickets is given to him, and he feels that he has a friend to go to.

A Lodge has been established at Aquia Creek, (a suitable building for the purpose, put up by the kindness and by the order of Captain Hall, of the Quartermaster's Department,) where from 25 to 35 invalid soldiers are cared for each night.



Some nights there have been as many as 80 or 90 taken in there. These are usually men waiting for a boat the next morning to convey them to Washington. This Lodge serves the same purpose relative to the Soldiers' Rest—an excellent building—at Aquia Creek, which the "Home" or the Lodge in Washington does to the Soldiers' Rest here: that is, it secures additional comfort and care to those who are too sick to be left to the ordinary provision which is made for soldiers *in transitu*.

So, likewise, at Convalescent Camp there is an agency of the Special Relief. A person is established there who has constantly on hand, in a store-house, all articles of clothing and comfort for distribution. And the soldiers from all the divisions of this camp of five thousand men are sent to this agent of the Commission by the surgeons, with printed tickets, placed in the hands of the surgeons for the purpose, stating what articles the bearers need. This agent, who visits in person all parts of the camp, is generally informed of existing necessities; this, besides furnishing actual care to many sick men in hospital tents immediately connected with the store-house there.

We are also about establishing a Relief Station at Sixth street wharf in order to look after the invalid soldiers as they arrive, at all hours, by boats from Aquia Creek or from other stations. They are feeble, and strangers, and at a distance from the Paymaster's Office, which they seek; they will always find some one on the wharf to look after them, and at this station food and shelter until they can be taken to the other part of the city, or to hospitals. The building for this use will be finished in a few days, and I am confident that much relief will be here given.

Among additional means of relief, is also to be mentioned two new buildings which have been commenced as part of the "Home," on North Capitol street, near the railroad station. Our present buildings were constantly so crowded that enlarged accommodations became necessary. One of the new buildings is about 30 feet by 50, with abundance of light and of air, to be used as a sick room, where some 15 or 20

of the men needing most care can be placed without being crowded, or exposed to noise. During the last few weeks there have been a large number of discharged men who were in such an enfeebled state that, after obtaining their final papers and their pay, they were obliged to keep their beds for some days before they could venture to start upon their journey home. In this new building we shall specially care for such men. The Commission is putting this up. At the same time, Captain Camp, of the Quartermaster's Department, who always kindly co-operates with our work, is building for our use a sleeping room 24 feet by 76, to be fitted with berths at the sides and through the middle, where we shall furnish comfortable beds to men needing warmth and care, but not so seriously sick.

The office of Major Yard, successor to Major Pomeroy, where discharged soldiers are paid off, has been removed from F st. to H st., between 13th and 14th sts. In accordance with our request, Col. Rucker, Quartermaster, who is found ready always to render real service to the soldiers, has put up there for our use a building 22 feet by 90, which will be used for the same purpose as was the Lodge in F street. It contains a sitting room and beds for fifty, a dining room where a hundred can be seated at a time, a kitchen, and a baggage room. Here all the men who are gathered daily from the various regimental and general hospitals with their discharge papers are fed and cared for, and those who are very weak or who are obliged to remain over night can find a comfortable bed in a warm room. He has also put up, at our request, another building 16 feet by 50 for the three (3) offices: one for "Special Relief," (so as to save the men the necessity of coming down to the Central Office, thereby also relieving the Central Office of a crowd;) another for the sale of Railroad Tickets by a Railroad Agent; another for the Pension Agency.

These buildings are within the grounds of the Paymaster's Office, and a strong detail of guard has been furnished by the Provost Marshal to exclude from this point all suspicious hangers on.

The current expense of maintaining the whole department of "Special Relief" is at the rate of \$1,600 per month, or \$53 per diem.

This monthly expense of \$1,600 is divided thus:

Pay of Relief Agents, of Superintendents, and Surgeon,	} Monthly .....	\$440
Pay of working men and women.....		
Supplies purchased.....		470
Transportation of sick.....		210
Incidentals.....		45
Repairs of buildings and additions.....		75
Wood, coal, &c.....		40
		<hr/>
		<u>\$1,600</u>

Some weeks since \$250 were placed at my disposal for the purpose of sending to their homes men who had not money enough to carry them there; we were also allowed to use part of it to send to their homes female nurses who found themselves sick and without means. We call this the "Ware Fund." It has now all been used, and the detailed record of the relief it has given tells of many grateful hearts. And to-day we have received one thousand dollars for this same purpose from friends in Brookline, Mass., who were informed of the good which might be thus done, and the suffering and anxiety which might be thus relieved. I specify these gifts because they are given for a specified purpose, for which we can hardly use legitimately the funds given to the treasury of the Commission for general relief of the soldier, inasmuch as this is helping the men after they are discharged from the service.

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*Special Relief Department of Sanitary Commission at Washington.*

"The Home," or Lodge No. 1, 374 N. Capitol st., second house from rear of Railroad Station, towards the Capitol.



Lodge No. 2, 17th street, between Pennsylvania avenue and H street.

Lodge No. 3, 210 F street, between 14th and 15th streets.

Lodge No. 4, 389 H street, between 13th and 14th streets.

Pension Office, 389 H street, between 13th and 14th streets.

Lodge No. 5, 6th street, corner of M, near 6th street wharf.

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*Special Relief Agent*, FREDERICK N. KNAPP, 244 F street.

*Assistants*, { J. B. ABBOTT,  
T. B. PECK,  
O. C. BULLARD.

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*Pension Director*, WILLIAM F. BASCOM.

*Medical Examiner for Pensions*, T. B. SMITH, M. D.

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“ *The Home.* ”

*Surgeon in Charge*, T. B. SMITH, M. D.

*Superintendent*, J. B. CLARK.

SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 60.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATION

OF THE

SANITARY COMMISSION,

AND THE REASONS OF IT,

SUGGESTED BY THE

CRITICISMS OF A COMMITTEE OF THE "CINCINNATI BRANCH OF  
THE SANITARY COMMISSION."

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BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON:

M'GILL & WITHEROW, PRINTERS.

1862.





## PROCEEDINGS.

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The following paper has been prepared in consequence of the proceedings of the Sanitary Commission, of Friday, November 27th, 1862, morning, as follows :

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to confer with Messrs. Bates and Broadwell on the subject of the claims put forward by the Branch Organization at Cincinnati.

Dr. Newberry was appointed such Committee, and reported that the Cincinnati Associates would submit a proposition in writing. \* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Olmsted read a paper on the executive organization of the Commission.

A written communication was received from Messrs. Bates and Broadwell, enclosing printed copies of a Report, dated 12th November, 1862, to the Cincinnati Branch of the Sanitary Commission, and stating that the Report and resolutions appended thereto embodied the propositions made by them.

(The Report opens with a statement that the Sanitary Commission is *a self-constituted, voluntary society, without constitution, by-laws, or rules* ; that its end is " Constitutional Freedom and American Nationality," through the means of guarding the health of the Army, and " restoring it in the hospitals ;" that " whatever is best at any time to this end is by the law of its organization, not written and yet clearly understood, the policy of the Commission ;" that there are associate members of the Commission, who are sometimes " organized into Branch Sanitary Commissions, *but by no resolution or other written definition of powers has the Sanitary Commission ever allotted to its associated members or its branches any given duties* ;" that the members of the Commission are gentlemen entitled to confidence ; that it meets at rare intervals at Washington, and has an Executive Committee, which meets daily at New York, a General Secretary stationed at Washington, and a Western Secretary, clothed with duties unknown to the Committee, who has had an office at Cleveland, and has been usefully employed in distributing supplies for a Cleveland society, " and in various other ways."

It next describes the Western Sanitary Commission, as a body of the same sort with the other, " both being self-constituted and recognized by the authorities." The Western Sanitary Commission is as yet, however, limited in its scope : it does not include the whole West, but is, " more properly, a St. Louis Commission." It cannot be more without the co-operation of Cincinnati. This co-operation it earnestly desires ; it is a praiseworthy institution.

The Report next gives a history of the Cincinnati Branch, as it is understood by the Committee ; of which the material matter is that the first meeting, held at Dr. Mussey's residence, was attended by Dr. Newberry, who suggested the organ-

ization, but gave no information as to powers or duties, did, however, authorize those present to add to their numbers, which has since accordingly been "several times multiplied;" and did finally distinctly announce that "the distribution as well as the collection of supplies" was to be their duty; that the branch entered upon, and has been engaged in relieving the suffering of soldiers, without let or hindrance of the Sanitary Commission; on the contrary, with the expressed approval of the Commission.

The Report then states that the branch works chiefly through the personal services of its members, who are men of business, with wide acquaintance in various States of the West, and argues the superiority of such service to that of paid agents. It then states that *the Sanitary Commission has not, and never has had, adequate means of distribution at the West*; that it would be fatal to leave the field to its agents, consisting of "a Western Secretary, and a few Inspectors," and expresses the opinion that the Western Sanitary Commission is better prepared to discharge the duty required than the Sanitary Commission "just to the extent that voluntary service exceeds in value hired labor."

Some account of "a convention of all the Western branches," called by the Cincinnati branch, and lately held at Indianapolis, is then given. It was attended by the Western Secretary, and from this it is inferred that he then had no objection to it. "If a different view prevails in any quarter now, [which is apparently assumed to be the case,] its causes must be sought for in events which have occurred since." An account of the donation to the Commission from California is next given, and it is stated that the President of the Sanitary Commission had said (not in the form of a promise) that \$50,000 would be placed "at the centre of operations on the Ohio," and at least half of it "expended through the Western auxiliaries;" that the delay in this expenditure through the Western auxiliaries is not satisfactory, and is feared to be caused by a disinclination to have them participate in the work of distribution; that a "Western Council," with its headquarters at Louisville, is seriously proposed, and it is alleged "this money [is to] be placed in the hands of that Council, by whom the work of distribution in the West shall hereafter be exclusively conducted;" that if this should be done the Cincinnati branch must pretty much cease to exist; that rather than remain in the humble position to which it would thus be assigned it would be better that it should connect itself with the Western Sanitary Commission," which has itself received \$50,000 from California, and a member of which proposed at the Convention that a "real Western Sanitary Commission" should be formed, which proposition being opposed by Dr. Newberry was then defeated; that the fear that the Sanitary Commission would undertake to control the details of the work in the field, led originally to the formation of the Western Sanitary Commission, the organization of which is considered to be justified by the delay of the Commission in dividing its treasury with its branches, and by the proposition of a Western Council; that the chief cause of immediate alarm is the appearance of a circular which contains the following words:

"Branch Aid Societies are chartered by the Commission, to be established at points suitable for obtaining supplies, intended for distribution by the system of the Commission, from States or large districts. They must be responsible for the necessary labor and expense of this duty, and must account exactly and punctually to those from whom supplies are received, and to the Commission."

"As the Commission are trustees for the judicious distribution of the gifts of the people to the soldiers, the branches are intermediate trustees for collecting, assorting, packing, storing, and forwarding the gifts. In emergencies the Branch Societies are often called upon to assist the Commission even more directly in the performance of its duties."

Upon this the Committee comment as follows :

*"The policy thus announced we do not hesitate to condemn in the strongest terms, and to advise you [the branch] to use every proper means of repelling. Since the commencement of the war until now the branches have done the work of distribution in the West."*

Again the proposition is termed "an insult." Three courses of action are then suggested for the adoption of the branch: 1st. "To close our business;" 2d. "To enter upon terms of alliance with the Western Sanitary Commission;" 3d. "To assume an entirely independent name and position." Several expedients are then suggested for attaining unity and harmony; the last is that "the Western Secretary should be a Secretary, and not a superintendent or man-of-all-work." "It is not necessary to his usefulness in this capacity that he be clothed with any authority whatsoever in the work of distribution."

It is nowhere distinctly stated, but the opinion of the Committee is plainly indicated to be that a plan for an entire change in the whole policy of the Sanitary Commission, especially in respect of undertaking an independent method of distributing supplies, *has been contrived since the California donation was received*, with the purpose of establishing grounds of apology for not dividing this donation among its branches. Inasmuch, however, as this plan has not yet been adopted, and may not be, "however strong the convictions of the General Secretary that it is, or ought to be," the Committee conclude by recommending the passage of the following Resolutions :

*"Resolved*, That the President and three other members attend the meeting of the Sanitary Commission on Monday next, whose duty it shall be to use every honorable effort to prevent the establishment of any Western Council or the adoption of any change in the present successful and well-established plan of distribution in the West, and to procure, if possible, the appropriation of half of the gross receipts from California and Oregon to the 'Western auxiliaries,' and whose further duty it shall be, if they succeed in this, to insist upon the terms of the trust, as expressed in California, so that the Branch at Cincinnati be enabled to spend an equal proportion of this money in its field with the Western Sanitary Commission at St. Louis.

*"Resolved*, That we endorse the statement of Rev. Dr. Bellows, made in his letter acknowledging the second donation of one hundred thousand dollars, dated October 28th, 1862, in these words: 'But fortunately we have already adopted plans and methods which require no change, but only larger means of more effectively carrying them out. Our regular and usual methods are the wisest we can devise, and we shall expend the gift of California in and through them as the most effective and direct means of succoring and saving our sick and wounded men.'



"*Resolved*, That the 'regular and usual method' heretofore adopted by the Sanitary Commission in the West is that of distribution through the branches: that no wiser plan can be devised; that no change is required, but only larger means, and that a debt of gratitude is due to the loyal people of California for the provision of such means.")

After the reading of the Report, Mr. Binney offered the following resolutions, viz:

1. *Resolved*. That the funds of the Sanitary Commission were confided to it in trust for the benefit of the whole army, East and West, and especially to enable the Commission to fulfil its great and primary duties of "inquiry and advice in respect to the Sanitary interests of the United States forces."

2. *Resolved*. That the field of inquiry and advice is a purely national field, and one of which the cost is immense, and, like the field, of daily increasing extent and dimensions.

3. *Resolved*. That the Sanitary Commission cannot, without a breach of trust, place any portion of its funds at the uncontrolled discretion of any organization not directly responsible to the Commission and subject to its direction.

Which were unanimously adopted.

On motion, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the general views embodied in Mr. Olmsted's paper on Executive Organization be adopted as the views and policy of the Commission. \* \*

On motion, it was unanimously

*Resolved*. That the Cincinnati Branch have misapprehended the duties and responsibilities of this Commission, and trust that if these were fully presented to them, the action proposed in their Report of November 12th would be reconsidered.

*Resolved, therefore*. That a Committee be appointed to reply to the Report presented to us by the Cincinnati delegation, in answer to our request to them for a clear statement of their wishes.

That our Committee be instructed to seek a conference with the Cincinnati Branch, for the purpose of presenting our reply in person.

*Resolved*, That the General Secretary, as Executive Agent, be directed to prepare for that Committee a statement of the organization and rules deemed by us necessary to carry out the duties assigned to the Commission, and of the reasons of their necessity.

*Resolved*, That Horace Binney, Jr., Esq., of Philadelphia, and Judge Skinner, of Chicago, constitute the Committee of reply and conference, with power to add to their number.

## REPORT.

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WASHINGTON, *December 18th*, 1862.

It is clear that the Cincinnati Committee, in the preparation of their report, acted under an unquestioned conviction that the Sanitary Commission had a perfect right to vote an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars to their branch, and that in no other way could this sum be expended with so much effect for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers. It is also clear, that this conviction rested primarily on the assumption, with a statement of which their report begins, that the Sanitary Commission is not under the control of any constitution, but is wholly self-constituted and self-governing; and secondarily, upon the assumption that the business of the Commission, at least until very recently, has not been that of a methodical distribution of hospital supplies to sick and wounded soldiers.

It is also clear, that the members of the Commission, in hesitating to meet the wishes of their friends in Cincinnati, have been primarily influenced by a conscientious doubt of their right to make such an appropriation. The vote upon the resolutions offered by Mr. Binney establishes the fact that those attending the meeting of November 27th, including the Rev. Dr. Bellows, Dr. Agnew, Dr. Van Buren, Dr. Howe, Prof. Gibbs, Prof. Bache, Mr. Strong, and Mr. Binney, were unanimously of the conviction that such an appropriation could not be made of money which had been placed under the control of the Commission, without a breach of trust. The only remaining members of the Commission who are not at this time engaged in stated duty with the army, are the

Rt. Rev. Bishop Clark, the Hon. Mark Skinner, and the Hon. R. W. Burnett. At a meeting of the Commission, held December 17th, 1862, Bishop Clark declared that his convictions were completely with those of the majority of the Commission. To Judge Burnett, who is President of the Cincinnati branch, and who is known to entertain a different view; to Judge Skinner, who is President of the Chicago branch, and whose opinions on the subject have never been expressed, and are unknown to the Commission; together with Dr. Bell, an associate member of the Commission, and President of the Louisville branch, whose views are also unknown, the question of the appropriation of a certain special sum of \$50,000, (with reference to which the duty resting on the Commission is thought to be most a matter of question) has been now referred, with power. The committee for whom the present report was originally prepared having been discharged of their duty, I have been directed to lay the following statement before the special committee of reference above named.

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WASHINGTON, *December 8th*, 1862.

TO HORACE BINNEY, ESQ., *Chairman* :

There are at least nine organizations other than that at Cincinnati, each of which has as good a right as that to designate itself "Branch of the Sanitary Commission;" there are about four hundred gentlemen who are styled "Associate Members of the Sanitary Commission," who are not included within these branches; and there are several thousand "Auxiliary Associations of the Sanitary Commission." Although umbrage has as yet been taken in no other quarter, at the allèged cause of dissatisfaction, presented in the report of the Cincinnati Committee, there has been everywhere much the same ground of distrust, the same danger of misunderstanding.



The Commission can have no wish to continue on such questionable terms with any of its associates; and it is a fortunate circumstance which gives occasion for establishing its relations with them for the future, on grounds which shall at least be of assured truth and frankness. If it should prove that the Commission had been imposing upon those who have hitherto sustained it, they will, it is to be hoped, still be able to conceive that it has done so unwittingly. If the plan upon which its resources were about to be employed, is, when fairly understood, altogether what they would wish it not to be, they will believe that its Cincinnati associates could have earned its gratitude in no other way so well as in that which they have adopted.

I propose, therefore, to review the relief organization of the Commission in its groundwork, according to the knowledge which, as its chief executive agent, I have of it.

On the 18th of May, 1861, the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals of New York, the New York Medical Association, and the Woman's Central Association of Relief, addressed a memorial to the Secretary of War, in which is found the first suggestion on record of the Sanitary Commission. It is in the following words: "Convinced by inquiries made here of the practical  
 "difficulty of reconciling *the aims of their own and numerous*  
 "*similar associations in other cities* with the regular workings  
 "of the Commissariat and the Medical Bureau, and yet fully  
 "persuaded of the importance to the country and the success  
 "of the war of bringing such an arrangement about, the under-  
 "signed respectfully ask, that a mixed Commission of (a) civil-  
 "ians, distinguished for their philanthropic experience and ac-  
 "quaintance with sanitary matters, of (b) medical men, and of  
 "(c) military officers, be appointed by the Government, who  
 "shall be charged with the duty of investigating the best means

"of *methodizing* and reducing to practical service the already "active but undirected benevolence of the people towards the "army, who shall consider the general subject of the preven- "tion of sickness and suffering among the troops, and suggest "*the wisest methods which the people at large can use*, to mani- "fest their good-will towards the comfort, security, and health "of the army."

Among the objects which it is urged that such a Commission would serve are mentioned, "*the best methods* of aiding the department with such supplies" as "the spontaneous benevolence of the people is ready to furnish." The desire is also expressed, "to play into the hands of the regular authorities in ways as efficient and as little embarrassing as extra-official co-operation can be."

By reference to an order of the War Department, (see enclosure marked A,) dated June 9th, 1861, the original of which, countersigned by the President of the United States, is on file at this office, and the accompanying plan and specifications endorsed by the then Acting Surgeon-General and the Secretary of War, also on file in this office, the whole constituting an instrument of commission, it appears that certain persons of the three several classes suggested in the memorial, were on that day appointed by the President of the United States, to undertake certain specified duties. As a part of these, the forming of a *plan of common action* in respect of "*supplies, dépôts, and methods*" of popular relief to the sick and wounded, is contemplated. "Direct relation with the public associations of benevolence" is authorized, and the purpose of such relation indicated as follows: "First, to secure *uniformity of plans*, and then proportion and harmony of action, and finally abundance of supplies, in money and goods, for such extra purposes as the laws do not and cannot provide for." "The organizing, methodizing, and reducing to serviceableness," "the vague and

haphazard efforts" of the public towards the army, is also referred to as an appropriate duty. "Contributions from patriotic and benevolent associations" are mentioned as "the natural supply of the cost of sustaining" the proposed undertaking. The free entrance of the Commission and of those acting for it to "camps, hospitals, fortresses, &c.," is provided for, and "all persons in the employ of the United States Government are directed and enjoined to respect and further the enquiries and objects of the Commission to the utmost of their ability." (By a subsequent special order, the books and records of all hospitals are thrown open to the authorized agents of the Commission.)

The grant of these privileges, however, is accompanied by an obligation which requires that the plan of common action to be devised, shall be "without embarrassment to the usual machinery" of the army, and that some one fit to be trusted in "confidential intimacy" by the War Department, shall be appointed under the Commission to be personally responsible for "such agents as can be safely" employed by virtue of its authority to visit "camps, hospitals, fortresses, &c.;" such agents "receiving instruction from and reporting to" this person.\*

Nine Commissioners were named in the instrument, of whom three were at the time officers in the service of the War Department; two others had previously been in the service of the War Department; and one other had been in foreign military

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\* These papers have been extensively published in the newspapers, and three times in pamphlets printed by the Commission: in the edition issued October, 1861, at page 13, (3d paragraph,) page 18 (1st, 2d, and 6th par.) and page 20, (at the foot.) the causes referred to will be found. Twenty-five hundred copies of this edition were sent out from this office addressed to individuals and (usually in packages of several hundred each) to auxiliary societies. Record appears of two early copies sent to Dr. Mussey and Mr. Pendleton, at Cincinnati, by mail, and of two hundred to Dr. Newberry, then at Cleveland, Ohio, by express. Copies were sent to every associate member of the Commission by mail.



service. Of the others, one declined to serve. There were, consequently, but two members out of eight who were not conversant with the regulations, customs, and discipline of military service. Of these two, one was a man of distinguished reputation in science, the other a man of learning and a divine, able to speak with authority of the demands of the philanthropy of the country.

It must have appeared to the President that as thus constituted, the philanthropic and scientific element was not as strong as, in carrying out the purposes committed to the Commission, might be found desirable. Authority was therefore given to the Commission, if it saw fit, to elect additional members, its military constituents having, of course, a determining voice in this question, and controlling the selection and the number of those to be thus added, if any. Of the military members, one was chief of the staff of Lieutenant-General Scott, another the active head of the Medical Bureau, another the active head of the Commissary Department. The object of constituting the Commission in this manner is made obvious by a memorandum on the point, signed by the mixed committee, as follows :

“As the Government will select *its own Commissioners*, \* \* \* it is hoped that the character of the Commission will be the best warrant the Government can have that the inquiries of the Commission, both as to their nature and *the manner of conducting them, will be pursued with discretion and a careful eye to avoiding important and offensive interference with the legal authority and official rights of any of the Bureaus with which it may be brought in contact.*”\*

It is clear that the fear of annoying intrusions, over-zealous endeavors to aid, and of practices which would militate against discipline and subordination, and which would encourage discon-

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\* San. Com., Doc. 25, p. 10.

tent and indolence in duty, at first led the President to hesitate to grant the prayer of the memorialists. It appears, also, that these objections were at length considered to be obviated, in part, by the suggestion that an executive officer should be appointed, to be under obligations of confidence to the War Department, and personally responsible to it for the due instruction and control of all who would be engaged in the active operations of the Commission in connection with the army, and by giving a controlling voice in the appointment of this officer, and in all decisions of the Commission, to men whose habits and sympathies were of a thoroughly military stamp.

During the period in which its organization was incomplete, five additional members of the Commission were elected. One of these was a man of science, and of medical skill and experience of a special character, and who was at the time, also, in the service of the War Department. Another had the same professional recommendation, and had, also, been a medical military officer; the third was a physician who had been in charge of the most important Governmental hospital in the country; the fourth was a member of the directory of several important corporations, commercial and benevolent, and was immediately elected Treasurer of the Commission; the fifth was the chief executive officer of a public work employing more than three thousand men, and was immediately elected chief executive officer of the Commission. The last named was the present writer. Every member of the Commission could lay claim to a standing and reputation as an expert of some one or other of the special functions assigned by the President to the Commission as a body.

Of the members since added, one is the Judge Advocate General of the United States, a second is a bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the three others are men of high professional standing, each holding positions of unusual trust in their respective communities. The service of the members as

Commissioners is wholly gratuitous. With the exception of the military members, and of one who has been suffering from protracted illness, they all have given a large share of their time and talent to the service of the Commission. The Executive Committee meets daily, not having failed to do so ten times in six months, and more than two-thirds of the whole time of every member of the Commission has, on an average, been given to the affairs of the army, from the day of its organization to the present. The number of members is now, and has been for a year past, eighteen, of whom nine have held military positions, or been officially connected with the War Department.

Upon accepting the office of Secretary to the Commission, I was informed that its policy would be guided exactly in accordance with the requirements of the President's commission, and was advised that it was my right under it, as chief executive officer, to require the removal of the persons already employed, even of the Corresponding Secretary. Unanimous action was taken upon a motion of the Vice-President, the object of which he stated to be to fully convince me of the fact of the unqualified responsibility which it was designed to fix upon me in this respect. The Corresponding Secretary being himself a member of the Commission, and present, assented then and thereafter to this action and design.\*

The Commission being organized, fell at once to work:

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\* This design has since been sustained, not, perhaps, without some inadvertent inconsistencies, but in general, with such punctiliousness as to conclusively establish the understanding which prevails of the peculiar function of the General Secretary; for instance, members of the Commission, when engaging in executive duties on the battle-field, have obtained credentials of appointment for that duty from me, and have reported to me in the same manner as the regular employees of the Commission. Again, when the Surgical Committee of the Commission have, at my request, employed professional assistance of their own selection, they have asked my formal confirmation of their action. The office of Corresponding Secretary has since been discontinued, not at my suggestion or request.



Within twenty-four hours of my appointment, several questions of a practical character, affecting the health of the army, were referred to appropriate committees, a scientific study of the ration of the army was begun, and a *dépôt for the collection of extra-governmental hospital supplies* was provided for. Special duties, involving weeks of hard professional labor, were assigned to and cheerfully undertaken by every member present except the President, Dr. Newberry, Dr. Harris, and myself, who were assigned temporarily to general executive service with the army, as follows: the President, with Dr. Newberry, to the army in the West, Dr. Harris to the army in the East. The question then arose, "How shall we obtain the means of making the results of our studies and deliberations of practical use, and of distributing wisely the goods which may be entrusted to us?"

It was incompatible with the confidential character of the Commission, as an adviser of the War Department, and with the design of its constitution, to greatly enlarge the number of its members—to make it either a representative or a popular body. It was accordingly voted, as shown by the minutes, page 14, that—

"WHEREAS, *the professional and scientific character of the Sanitary Commission*, make it dependent on the existence of financial committees in various parts of the country, to be composed of business men for the collection of funds:

"Resolved, that the following gentlemen, and such others as they may choose to associate with them, viz: [here follows a list of names] who are hereby constituted *associate members* of this Commission," &c.

The following day a circular letter was prepared, soliciting the co-operation of associate members, which was signed by every member of the Commission, and soon afterwards printed and published. In this letter, associate members are asked "to obtain for

“the Commission the means required to carry out its object; to inform the public fully (through the press and otherwise) of the existence and design of the Commission, and of the great and pressing danger which it is intended to avert; to promote the establishment of auxiliary associations; and so to direct the labors of associations already formed for the aid and relief of our armies, that they may strengthen and support those of the Commission.” No other duty or desirable service on the part of associate members is hinted at, except that “suggestions or advice” are invited.\*

I then understood, and have since assumed, that no direct action of the executive office of the Commission was intended upon the volunteers before they took the field, except by publication and correspondence, but that the Commission would rely upon its associate members and the societies which they would influence, to provide whatever assistance might be required by troops at recruiting stations and *in transitu*. Such an assignment of duty does not distinctly appear in the above quoted letter to associate members, nor otherwise of formal record, but it can be shown that this has been the understanding of the Commission, and it is undeniable that the majority of the associate members have acted in accordance

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\* Copies of this letter were sent to every Associate Member of the Commission, including those of Cincinnati, as elected during the next six months: some declined to accept the office, including one associate member elect at Cincinnati, on the ground of engagements incompatible with the obligations required to be assumed. This was not the case with any present member of the Cincinnati branch, I believe.

In December a formal report was made to the Secretary of War, of the appointment of about four hundred “Associate Members.” Their relation to the work of the Commission was stated in the following terms: “Through these Associate Members, auxiliary organizations have been established in our principal cities, which have rendered material service to the Commission in supplying it with funds, in stimulating the supply of hospital material, and in the preparation of medical and surgical papers.”

with it. This has been most obviously the case at Philadelphia and Cincinnati—where, and at St. Louis, the demand for the required service has been greatest—and the generous and admirable manner in which troops at these points have been cared for by the local associations has often been a subject of the most hearty praise and congratulation on the part of the Commissioners toward the associate members in those cities..

The field of special executive responsibility, under the Commission, I have always supposed to be defined by the limit of the need for special authority from the President to inspect “hospitals, camps, fortresses, etc.,” that is to say, to be especially that of troops in the field, and it has been my general purpose wherever I believed that any required service could be thrown upon other associations, as a rule, without destroying the symmetry of the Commission’s work, to encourage them to assume it, and to be very cautious about entering upon it until a trial had been made of leaving it to them. The line between the two fields of duty, as at St. Louis and Louisville, Washington and Baltimore, is, obviously, not perfectly well defined; but, with a generous motive, sufficiently so for all practical purposes, it being more probable that it would be somewhat overlapped from both sides, than that a neglected gap would occur.

On the 5th of September, 1861, when the new levies for three years were being raised, the Commission

*Resolved*, That the subject of the inspection of volunteers [recruits] be referred to a committee of three. Mr. Strong, Dr. Agnew, and Professor Gibbs were so appointed.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Strong, Bishop Clark, Professor Bache, and Dr. Newberry, be appointed a Committee to nominate additional associate members.

*Resolved*, That this Committee be requested to define the relations of the associate members to the Commission, and to pro-



pose some scheme for making them [more] practically useful in promoting the ends of the Commission.”\*

Mr. Strong, as the Chairman of both Committees, five days afterwards reported verbally, and it was then

*Resolved*, That whereas the Commission is convinced that the seeds of neglect and disease are extensively sown in the recruiting stations of the army, in all cities and towns throughout the country; and whereas the opportunities of enforcing correct sanitary habits, and communicating judicious suggestions, can be readily and abundantly offered at these stations; therefore the Commission earnestly solicits the co-operation of its associate members in the neighborhood of recruiting stations, in enforcing sanitary regulations on officers and men.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to appoint local inspectors at the several recruiting stations, to serve without compensation, and to enquire into the wants and sanitary condition of troops, and to report from time to time to the Commission.

*Resolved*, That the Reverend Francis W. Williams be and he is hereby appointed such Sanitary Inspector at ——†

The only case in which the Commission has appointed an Inspector is that above shown, and this exception to its usual custom proves that the duty for which I was to be held especially responsible, did not extend to the recruiting districts of the country; that is to say, to completely loyal communities while the previous resolutions show that, for the execution of the work of the Commission within loyal communities, its associate members were depended on. Even for the purposes indicated, with this limitation, and with the view of meeting its

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\* Minutes, p. 55.

† Minutes, p. 65.

"solicitations," the Commission did not conjecture that its associates would appoint Inspectors, that title as used in the Commission being supposed to establish a certain authority from and responsibility to the War Department. Accordingly, the Secretary was directed to appoint Inspectors for this special duty, who should report, not to its associates or to the Secretary, as all other Inspectors did and do, but to the Commission direct. To harmonize this order, however, with the limited responsibility which the associate members were solicited to assume, I addressed the latter, in the following circular note, copies of which were sent to each, including those at Cincinnati:

*Circular to Associate Members.*

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SANITARY COMMISSION. WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
TREASURY BUILDING, *September 23, 1861.*

The following resolutions having been adopted by the Commission, the General Secretary requests Associate Members who may be willing to undertake the duty of inspecting recruiting stations in the vicinity of their residences, to so inform him, by letter addressed to this office, when he will forward to them the necessary credentials of appointment, under authority derived from the Secretary of War. At stations where no member will find it convenient to undertake the duty, the selection and nomination to the Secretary of some other suitable person is respectfully suggested. It would be the duty of the inspector to procure the adoption and enforcement of proper sanitary regulations at the stations and camps of recruits, and to offer such advice in regard to the means of preserving health to the officers and privates as might in each case be found desirable. [Here followed a copy of the Resolutions.]

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*General Secretary.*

Candidates were nominated, in answer to this request, by associates in several cases, and were duly appointed and qualified, receiving in every case formal credentials, and the usual printed advisory documents and instructions. One of these associate Inspectors, nominated by the Philadelphia branch of the Commission, was afterwards refused the means of informing himself satisfactorily of the condition of one of the U. S. General Hospitals in that city; a regimental officer in a camp at Harrisburg also declined to answer his enquiries. Report of this was made to the Commission, which, at its next session laid the matter before the War Department, when the offending officer received prompt reproof under the direct hand of the Secretary of War himself, and proper amends were made.

In April last, the attention of the Commission was directed to the question of providing for the wants of disabled discharged soldiers, under certain circumstances. It was then argued and acknowledged that it would be scarcely consistent with the implied conditions of its trust to employ its funds paying even for the transportation home of such men; the President therefore entered into a correspondence with the Governors of the loyal States (ex-officio Associate Members on the subject, and the agents of the Commission have since referred men, in the circumstances alluded to, to other agencies established in some cases at the suggestion of the Commission but not responsible to it.

In July a more general discussion of the subject of disabled soldiers occurred; and in August, one of the Associate Members was asked to make it a matter of special study. Careful reports have since been received from this gentleman. In September the matter was again discussed, and a paper prepared by the President, was agreed upon as expressing the judgment of the Board, upon the general question of how disabled



iers, after being discharged from the service, should be dealt with by the community. This paper was then ordered to be printed for distribution at the discretion of the President. It has not been given to the public at large. Though the action of the Commission on this subject originated in a suggestion from myself as a member, as executive officer, no responsibility has been given me about it whatever, the President and Executive Committee acting directly in everything that has been done.

This action, taken in connection with that previously had, establish the fact of an intended division of duty, as follows :

1st. On the part of the Commissioners personally: scientific and professional investigations and deliberations, with decisions of judgment upon matters practical to the health and strength of the military and naval forces of the country, whereupon advice should be given, and action taken.

2d. On the part of Associate Members: relations with the public, especially with "public associations of benevolence;" the collection of funds and stores, either directly or through such associations; and arrangements in aid of the authorities, under advice of the Commission, for protecting the soldier from disease, and adding to his comfort, while yet in the midst of loyal communities, or after his return to them.

3d. On the part of the Executive Office: direct relations with the War Department, especially all duties ordered by the Commission, involving scrutiny of camps, hospitals, fortresses, etc., under military law, and dealings with the troops in the field.

To the whole arrangement of members, a uniting centre was formed in the President of the Commission; and in the person of

the President the necessity was met for keeping all mere business concerns under the direct controlling influence of a wise, though warm and readily sympathetic humanity, closely intimate with and answering to the heart of the people; for, from this, all was to be nourished, and cut off from this, all would be dead and useless. And in every department of the Commission's affairs, whether in the field, the office, or on the platform, the personal influence and not unfrequently the personal presence of the President, is to be found, keeping alive the generous soul of the original impulse of the Commission.

I think it has been further established, by the citations I have made, that the Commission is not a purely voluntary and self-constituted body, governing itself, or entitled to govern itself, without reference to any established formulæ, as has been supposed by its Cineinnati associate members; also, that it is through no concealment or neglect of publication on the part of the Commission, that these gentlemen have remained in ignorance, till now, of the facts of its constitution, and of their own duty.

I think it is also established by the words of the documents published by the Commission, which I have quoted, that it was constituted for no purpose more distinct, and that its members were pledged to nothing more thoroughly than to establish a common method of distributing extra-governmental hospital supplies; that this method was required to be free from the danger of intruding persons into camps, hospitals, and fortresses, of whose discretion or loyalty the War Department could have no adequate assurance, or who, from ignorance of the necessities of the service, with ill-directed zeal, might become an embarrassment to it; that this method was also required to be universal in respect to the army of the Union, and one into which the liberality of all patriotic men and women, and of all associations of patriotic men and women, willing to aid in the care of the sick

and wounded of the army of the Union, where and when their aid was most needed, could play, with reasonable ground of assurance that their offerings would be fairly, equitably, discreetly and honestly employed. For this purpose it was obviously necessary, in the first place, that the wants of the army should be carefully ascertained, and that those wants for which the only radical remedy would be found in an improvement of the administration of the army should be clearly distinguished from those which could only be met by calling upon the public benevolence.

Hence the first and most essential, immediate duty of the Commission was that of enquiry.

By reference to the enclosure marked C, p. 38, it will be seen that, at the session of the Commission following that in which its own organization as a deliberative body was completed, I presented a report, in which, after showing that the formation of an executive staff had been commenced, I expressed the opinion that twenty men "of special qualifications, thoroughly instructed" in their duties, would be needed for the visitation of camps, under the authority of the Commission. This was early in July, 1861, and the estimate referred to the comparatively small army then expected to be kept in the field.

By reference to the enclosure marked A, p. 89, it will be seen that a month after this, a committee of the Commission stated in a paper, (copies of which were sent to all the associate members of the Commission,) that "extra hospital clothing" and "additional supplies" had then "been provided by the Commission *as liberally as the funds under its control would justify,*" and that it was "in constant receipt of supplies of stores, clothing, and other articles, contributed by patriotic individuals and associations *throughout the country.*" By reference to enclosed printed slip marked O, which was generally published in the newspapers



about the middle of August, it will be seen that the liberality and promptness with which the public had already begun to make use of the means of distribution offered by the Commission, was deemed worthy of a formal acknowledgment. By reference to the enclosure marked E, (copies of which were sent by mail, directed to Judge Hoagly and several of his associates, before the distinctive organization of the "branch" in Cincinnati was formed,) it will be seen that in September, of the same year, Dr. Newberry reported that during August, the wants of the troops in camp, from Western Virginia to Missouri, had been carefully ascertained on the ground, and that "much had been done during the month in supplying" these wants at the hands of the regular agents of the Commission. By reference to enclosure marked C, page 38, it will be found that, on the 5th of September, 1861, I reported to the Commission that *dépôts* for receiving extra-governmental hospital supplies, to be distributed by the Commission, were necessary at various points through the country, and that I then estimated that, unless the government-system itself could be greatly improved, a capital in hand would be required by the Commission of fifty thousand dollars, and a secure income, in addition, of five thousand dollars a month, to form and carry out a proper national method of extra-governmental hospital supply.

These citations, I presume, will be found to fully establish the fact that, between the organization of the Commission in June and the first of September following, a "method of distribution" for extra-governmental hospital supplies to the army in the field, had been contemplated; had been, in part, at least, established, and was proposed to be continued and enlarged, in exact accordance with the plan for this purpose, which, as I have already proved, was had in view from the beginning, and even before the Commission was constituted.

By reference to enclosure marked E, p. 8, it will be seen that the Cincinnati branch of the Sanitary Commission was not then in existence. The Commission at that time had no "branches," nor was there even the germ of a branch in all the West, except, perhaps, in the Soldiers' Aid Society of Cleveland, which was then sending supplies in large quantities to be distributed by the method which had been established by the Commission, as will be seen by reference to enclosure marked E, p. 11, and G, p. 11.

It is obvious, then, that the statement which is an important point in the argument of the Cincinnati committee, that "since the commencement of the war until now the branches have done the work of distribution at the West," was made inconsiderately.

I am now called upon for a statement of the rules by which the executive service of the Commission is governed, and of the reasons for these rules; in other words, to describe the usual and regular *method* of distribution adopted by the Commission, and to show why it has been adopted.

The whole duty of the Commission, its executive duty as well as its administrative, financial, and deliberative duty, is fore-stated in the instrument of its commission.

The weightiest discretionary duty in its executive department has been the selection, instruction, and superintendence of suitable sub-executive officers, with each of whom could be placed, within certain geographical limits, the use of the complete discretionary power of the whole Commission, so far as it could with advantage be used, at any time, within those limits; and a share of all the means at the disposal of the Commission, justly commensurate with the extent of the legitimate claim of those under his observation upon the liberality of the public. The chief purpose sought to be attained by the President in con-

stituting the Commission was to remedy evils arising from the necessary limitations of discretionary power placed upon officers of Government. If, therefore, similar limitations were to be placed upon the agents of the Commission; if every important question arising in their duties had to be referred to Washington, or Louisville, or New York, or Cincinnati, the chief purpose of the President would be frustrated. My business has been, then, to station such trustworthy agents, properly instructed as to the whole executive duty of the Commission, in such a way that they would together cover the whole field of active operations, and to see that they were each *able to command* a fair share of whatever it should be in the power of the Commission to offer the army; to give them, as far as possible, all needed assistance in the distribution of this bounty, and to hold them accountable for using the authority and advantages of the Commission for the benefit of the army, in strict subordination to the requirements, defined and implied, of the instrument of the President's commission.

These discretionary agents are denominated the General Inspectors of the Commission, and each is responsible for the conduct of all other agents of the Commission within his beat. For all practical purposes, each of these Inspectors stands for the Sanitary Commission, with the portion of the army under his observation, being endowed with all the power which the Commission itself could rightly use for the benefit of its sick and wounded, the restrictions placed upon his action being only such as are necessary to prevent an unjust concentration of the energies of the Commission to meet the special wants of a certain limited part of the field. There are now, and there have been since the organization of the staff was complete in 1861, on an average, constantly sixteen General Inspectors in the service of the Commission.



The privileges of which the commission of the President of the United States authorized the use are cited in the credentials of each Inspector.

It may be doubted if these privileges have any practical value. It has just now occurred that an agent of the Commission having been stopped under an order forbidding any civilian to enter the military lines at Warrenton, upon presenting his credentials, was promptly answered the moment the heading was seen: "Sanitary Commission? The Sanitary Commission goes anywhere, at all times, and is always welcome." Passes within the military lines of the grand army of General Burnside are at the present time rigidly refused, except under a special order, rarely given, by the Secretary of War in person. Three inspectors of the Commission, with a number of relief agents, are, however, with that army, and both General Burnside and General Hooker, without any request or suggestion from the Commission that they should do so, have taken the trouble personally to give advice as to the best points for establishing the dépôts of the Commission, and the best routes of communication with them. Soon after Stewart's raid in the rear of the army of the Potomac, a general order forbidding the admission of civilians within the lines was most rigidly enforced; even members of Congress, bearing papers from the Secretary of War, being turned back at White House. The Commission at this time had a relief station beyond the Chieka hominy and a number of agents within the army lines. I applied personally to the Provost Marshal for passes for additional agents to be sent on from White House, and was answered, in the presence of a member of Congress, who had himself been refused the privilege: "Any one bearing orders from the Sanitary Commission is considered a part of the army, and will, of course, be allowed to pass." Other Relief Agents, some bearing credentials from Governors of States, others from societies, one

of the latter, at least, being termed (erroneously) a "Sanitary Commission," were turned back, and became indebted to the Commission for lodging and food until opportunity occurred for their return to the loyal part of the land. Under General Halleck and General Rosecrans, the same discrimination has been used at the West, when the representatives of benevolent societies and other civilians have been refused access to camps and hospitals: restrictions for this purpose have been, however, hitherto, less frequently established and less rigidly enforced in the Western than the Eastern armies.

It is necessary to refer to the fact, that soon after the work of the Commission began to engage public attention, a great number of voluntary societies at the West gave themselves the name of "Sanitary Commission," with no more thought of the impropriety of doing so, in the minds of their members, it may be assumed, than would have been the case if they had been naming a new steamboat. An order of General Halleck, which was once published in the newspapers, that "no more Sanitary Commissions" were to be allowed access to his army, had, of course, no reference to the real Sanitary Commission, which was never interrupted in its work with his army for a single day. On the contrary, General Halleck has frequently expressed his entire satisfaction with the conduct of its agents.

There can be no doubt, that had the business of the Sanitary Commission with the army been conducted with less circumspection than it has, protests against the exercise of its privileges would long ago have been made by the Generals who now welcome its agents, and it would have been the duty of the President to annul these privileges. A greater abundance of supplies might, perhaps, have been got to the hospitals in some quarters, if it had not been for the constraint of the few strict rules prescribed for the agents of the Commission. This possible greater

profusion at certain times and in few places, however, would but poorly compensate for the loss of the right which the Commission has *alone* enjoyed for bringing relief at all times to four-fifths of the army when engaged in actual serious operations of war in the territory of the rebellious States. As it is, the agents of the Commission have been everywhere (with a single justifiable exception,) with the advance of the army, and have operated as promptly and as generously in Mississippi and Louisiana and Florida, and both the Carolinas, as in Virginia and Kentucky. In this they have justified a large part of all the plan and purpose of the President's commission; it is, at least, doubtful if as much of this could have been accomplished by any radically different method.

No restriction is directly established by the terms of the President's commission upon the use to be made of the privileges which it confers, but the precaution taken of requiring a chief executive officer of the body commissioned, to be in confidential relations with the War Department, and who should be responsible to it for the employment of agents who could be "safely entrusted" with the duty of visiting "camps, hospitals, fortresses, &c.," I have always supposed, to establish an intention of holding this agent personally accountable for the purposes, character, discretion, and reserve of all who should be thus employed, and have governed myself accordingly. Hence a fundamental rule in the executive duty of the Commission, which may be expressed thus:

*No one shall use the privileges of the Commission, except for the furtherance of the purpose had in view by the President in the grant of them, nor otherwise than in strict subordination to, and aid of, the discipline of the national forces and the immediate purposes of their commanders.*



This rule has been rigidly observed from the outset; requests from members of Congress, the purpose of which would not have been strictly justified under this rule, having been more than once refused, and an agent of the Commission having been dismissed for writing to a newspaper from within military lines.

That the Commission could appoint associate members; give these the authority to appoint others, and these again the right to appoint agents to visit the army when in the face of the enemy, and that these agents, unknown to the chief executive officer of the Commission by name, not reporting to him or to any officer or member of the Commission, could claim to be agents of the Sanitary Commission, and to act under its authority is, of course, a proposition which it had never occurred to me that any one could entertain, until I saw it apparently credited by Judge Hoadly, and his associates of the committee.

Judge Hoadly and his associates, must be aware that the word commission has a meaning entirely different from that of society or committee, and they cannot be supposed to share in that popular error which confounds the simplest laws of military success with a degrading subjection to military pedantry, and which, according to recent statements of the highest officers of our Government, leads to a dissipation of the real strength of our armies equal to one-half of their force. It is satisfactory to know that no suspicion of having administered in the smallest degree to this expensive mistake, through the conduct of its regularly appointed and recognized agents, can rest upon the Commission.

The method of guarding against it is simple and uniform, applying equally well in Kentucky and in Florida.

The first formal instructions given to an agent of the Commission with reference to a duty involving a visit to camps, hospitals, or fortresses within the military lines, commenced with the following sentences :

“SIR: You will, in the first place, proceed, if practicable, to  
 “the headquarters of the portion of the army which you are to  
 “visit, and present your credentials to the general commanding.  
 “Having explained to him the objects of your visit, you will  
 “request from him such endorsement or aid as will be necessary  
 “to your further proceedings.

“If the regiments which you are to visit are brigaded, you  
 “should also pay your respects to the brigade commander, or the  
 “commanding officer of the post, before calling on the regimental  
 “officers.

“It is required of you, in all cases, in like manner, to show  
 “your respect for the regulations for the discipline, order, and  
 “rank of the army, as far as practicable, by approaching the in-  
 “ferior by way of the superior officer, and only with a formal or  
 “implied approval or endorsement of your purpose by the latter.  
 “Unquestionably the first of all conditions of health of the army  
 “is strict discipline. Do all, therefore, in your power to encour-  
 “age and strengthen a good purpose in this respect; do all in your  
 “power to sustain it. Honor in your own conduct the strictest  
 “rules of military etiquette, and let it be seen that you expect  
 “them to be stringently enforced. Let it be known that you con-  
 “sider no disease so destructive to an army as laxity of discipline.  
 “Demand, wherever you can properly do so, that the standard of  
 “the volunteers shall be at least as high as that of the regulars in  
 “this respect, and reprove any intimation that this is not to be  
 “attempted.

“On arriving at the camp of a regiment, (supposing that no  
 “officer has been detailed by the general to escort you,) ask for  
 “the officer of the day, and, stating your business, request him to  
 “present you to the colonel or commanding officer of the regi-  
 “ment,” etc.

Similar but more emphatic instructions were given to Inspectors appointed within the last month.

It will be seen, then, that the agents of the Commission are not only instructed to scrupulously refrain from any misuse of the privileges of the Commission, but they are enjoined to take precautions to prevent any reasonable ground of apprehension that they may be misused in the minds of the officers in command of forces which they visit. These, they are required to remember, have too much to guard against that is unavoidable, and they are warned never to add a particle to their anxieties. The sentiment in this respect which is cultivated among the agents of the Commission has been expressed in the following terms :

“The cause our armies have to defend is alone dearer to the people than are those who have to suffer in its defence. The strength and mobility of the army cannot be sacrificed to the care of its sick and wounded. The sick and wounded should be sacrificed unflinchingly to every unavoidable military necessity; but all the more should they be supplied with whatever mitigation of suffering military necessities leave possible.”

There are three conditions under which hospital supplies may be furnished, and which it is desirable should be kept in mind, in considering the organization and rules of the Commission, with especial reference to this way of administering aid to the health of the army. They may be defined as follows :

1st. Where hospitals already have all that Government undertakes to supply.

2d. Where hospitals are lacking in what Government undertakes to supply.



3d. Emergencies which government can not undertake at once to fully meet.

Theoretically, Government undertakes to provide all things necessary for the patients in its military hospitals. The Government's standard of the necessity of patients has been very greatly advanced since the war commenced, however, and from this it follows that it is a fluctuating standard ; hence it is never quite certain that Government does furnish any particular patient with all that which is his particular necessity. In other words, there is a limit to the duty undertaken by Government. It is the duty of every Surgeon having charge of a hospital, if possible, to obtain from Government for his patients whatever they want that will come within this limit. But in almost all cases there will be something beyond it which would give gratification and comfort to his patients, and which would, perhaps, increase in some slight degree their chance of life, or expedite their recovery. With this end in view, and under the first condition, there are some kinds of supplies furnished by the people, and most bountifully at the West, as for instance, eggs, butter and canned meats, fruits and vegetables, which may be distributed to all hospitals, at all times, with a certain advantage. Danger only arises when ignorant persons, in order to enjoy expressions of gratitude from the patients, or from distrust of the honesty or efficiency of the surgeon of the hospital, insist upon placing the gifts they bring in the hands of the patients themselves, a practice which has occasioned many deaths.\*

But it frequently happens that surgeons in charge of hospitals do not, for various reasons, obtain the supplies which they are

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\* Green fruit has been often given to men and boys in the hospitals, when desperately low with dysentery or typhoid fever.

entitled to receive from Government. It can never be in the power of individuals or benevolent associations to relieve the sick of the army from dependenc, in the main, upon governmental supplies.\* The danger arises, then, that, if surgeons in charge of hospitals are relieved in any measure from the consequences of a failure to obtain the authorized governmental supplies, such relief will act as an interposition between them and the official correction of neglect; the occasion for such relief being *prima facie* evidence of culpability on the part of some one; if not of the surgeon, then, perhaps, of the quartermaster's department, or of the military commandant. Again, it is hardly possible, if surgeons find they can usually obtain what is necessary for their patients more easily from voluntary supplies than from the Government stores, that they will not be influenced to neglect to make sufficient and timely provision for their patients, trusting that the deficiency will still continue to be made good by the eager and careless hand of the public. But this cannot always be the case. When most needed, the voluntary supply may be most insufficient. Hence, unless the assistance thus offered is carefully guarded, there is danger that it may, in the long run, do more harm than good. So much weight is attached to the objections thus indicated to the usual methods for aiding the sick and wounded of the army of most of those who do not act through the method of the Commission, that the opinion has been often expressed by medical officers themselves as well as by others whose judgment is entitled to respect, that all efforts of

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\* Notwithstanding the apparently immensely large contributions of the public to the hospitals since the war commenced, it is certain that not one-tenth of the actual cost of sustaining the sick and wounded has been thus met. The real value of these supplies is almost wholly dependent on their being so dispensed as to meet the accidental and occasional defects of the governmental supply.

this kind must be harmful. When the Commission was organized, some of its own military members held that any advantage to be secured by the distribution of extra-governmental hospital supplies, was at least questionable. The results of carefully watched experiment, however, have so far removed these doubts, that no one can now be found disposed to question that at least, *in certain cases*, where the Government supplies are found inadequate, the advantage to be secured by promptly meeting the deficiency will greatly more than compensate for whatever bad influence may be exerted. *When* this is so can only be determined, however, with a knowledge of the circumstances of each particular case. Hence it would be better, if it were possible, that the deficiencies of hospitals, in respect of the regular Government supplies, should in no case be made good by the public generosity without a special inquiry as to the occasion of the deficiency, and a deliberately formed conviction, on the part of some competent judge in the case, that, on the whole, advantage must result from it. But even with as close an approximation to this rule of precaution as possible, the necessities of the patients immediately concerned can only justify the offer of volunteer supplies as the less of two evils; and it is therefore necessary to consider what can be done, in each case where aid is given, to reduce to a minimum this smaller evil; that is to say, the demoralizing and undisciplining influence of an act which interposes to prevent the legitimate consequences of some official neglect or mismanagement.

It will have some influence in this way if a mere recognition of the fact can be secured that the agent of supply is not justified in furnishing what is needed until he has satisfied himself of the cause of the deficiency, and that, without satisfactory explanation, such deficiency must needs be regarded as discreditable to the surgeon. Hence, under the second condition, it



is an established rule in the service of the Sanitary Commission, that supplies shall not, under ordinary circumstances, be issued except in case—

1st. The need for them is beyond question ;

2d. An explanation has been requested of the way in which this need has been allowed to arise ;

3d. A request for a written voucher from the surgeon, or some other responsible agent of government, showing what the Commission has been called upon to do in the case.

Such voucher must, under ordinary circumstances, be considered either as an admission of neglect on the part of the surgeon, or an accusation of neglect against some one else responsible to the War Department.

It is, of course, then, in the power of the Inspector to report all cases wherein neglect of duty on the part of the surgeon or of the medical purveyor is apparent to the medical director or other superior medical officer, thus subjecting the delinquent to reproof and loss of favor ; or if the neglect appears to have been in the department of transportation, he may report the quartermaster responsible for it to his superior officer.

Why should not the Inspector be required to do this in all cases ? For two reasons : first, because the number of cases in which a certain small amount of delinquency is apparent is so large, it is certain that, if all were reported, little notice would be taken of them, while the Inspector would be accounted a busy-body. It is an axiom of executive science that habitual fault-finding destroys rather than establishes an habitual sense of just responsibility ; second, the Inspector can often do more good by aiding the lax conscience and fagged energies of the surgeon by his

counsel and sympathy than by bringing upon him the reproof of his superior, while the knowledge that such reproof was likely to be the result of his furnishing the Inspector with full and correct information would lead the surgeon to conceal the real wants of his patients from the Inspector, and create a feeling adverse to his good influence.

Although, therefore, specific reports may be made by the Inspector to the Medical Director, in aggravated cases, it is better that he should endeavor, when hospitals are found deficient in necessities, to assist the Surgeon to obtain these with greater facility, promptness, and certainty from the Government stores. This he may do, for instance, by searching out and striving to remove any obstructions by which Government supplies are kept back in the Purveyor's or Quartermaster's office, or elsewhere outside of the hospital.

In order to keep this report within proper limits, nothing is said that can be well avoided, of the duty of the Commission, as an instructor or adviser of the army. It will be readily understood, however, that whatever instructions it is able to give will be most appropriately and successfully disseminated through the regimental surgeons, and it is therefore desirable that the Inspectors establish the best understanding with these gentlemen, possible to be maintained without a clear neglect of a paramount duty.\* The first general advice to Inspectors as to their dealings

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\* It is evidently the impression of the Cincinnati committee, that the all-important duty of the Inspectors of the Commission has been the detailed sanitary inspection of camps, with the incidental instruction of regimental officers given in connection with such inspection. It may not be denied that such an error can have been founded upon statements formerly made by authority of the Commission. It is well known that there has been a difference of opinion among members of the Commission as to the advisability of continuing its relief system, and that it has been expected, by some of them, at least, that the chief value of its inspections would not be found in the opportunity they would disclose for judicious aid to

with surgeons, issued *July, eighteen hundred and sixty-one*, contained the following instructions. While the recent, present, and proposed plans of the Commission differ not at all from them in spirit, the policy indicated in the second and fourth paragraphs has been so confirmed and strengthened by experience of its good results, that it has gradually become a well-defined trunk to its whole executive system :

“ Having obtained an introduction, in your official capacity,  
 “ to the regimental surgeon, it will not, generally, be difficult for  
 “ you to gain his confidence and good will, for your duty will lead  
 “ you to magnify his office, and if he properly appreciates its  
 “ responsibilities and difficulties, he will value the services you  
 “ will be able to render him.

“ It is the duty of the surgeon to point out whatever is un-  
 “ favorable to the health of the regiment, and to suggest the  
 “ proper remedy. You should encourage him to make and to  
 “ persevere in making such suggestions, and wherever possible,  
 “ consistently with your judgment, should add the weight of your  
 “ own influence to his advice. You may find it necessary to  
 “ remind the surgeon that he becomes responsible for the exist-  
 “ ence and continuance of any unjustifiable sanitary condition  
 “ pertaining to the camp or to the management of the regiment,  
 “ against which he does not perseveringly expostulate.

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the hospitals. The error of the impression of the Cincinnati Committee, however, will be sufficiently established by the simple statement that written instructions were given Dr. Newberry, more than six months ago, to discontinue the detailed sanitary inspection of camps by the Inspectors at the west, and to direct them to devote themselves wholly to the relief system and duties which could be pursued with advantage in connection with it. Not more than fifty sanitary inspections of camps, in detail, have been made by the Inspectors since the troops last left winter quarters. In the previous six months the number of these inspections was about one thousand.



“It is difficult to define the rights and the duties of regimental surgeons, because these vary so much with circumstances. The medical and surgical provision for a regiment, on detached service of a special kind, should be altogether different from that of a regiment quartered with many others in the immediate vicinity of a general hospital. The regulations were not formed with reference to large armies in the field, and are not perfectly adapted to the circumstances in which our volunteer surgeons at present find themselves. A patient study of their provisions will, nevertheless, disclose the means of remedying most of the difficulties of which you will hear much complaint. When this is not the case, an appeal may be made to the Medical Director, or, if necessary, to the Major General commanding, who, for a special purpose, can override the restrictions ordinarily placed upon the supply of medical stores and hospital conveniences.

“Inexperienced regimental surgeons will generally be found to err in attempting to maintain too complicated and extensive hospital arrangements, and in undertaking to deal with cases for which proper supplies and accommodations cannot be provided, except in fixed general hospitals. There should be nothing in a regimental hospital to stand in the way of sudden and rapid movements; and whenever a cure cannot shortly be expected, patients should be transferred to a general hospital. In some cases, however, this will not be possible; and when you meet with these, *you are expected to do all in your power to obtain such supplies as are immediately needed*, and which cannot be got by official process. This may be done either *by requisition upon the stores of the Commission*, by an appeal to local charity, or, *when necessary, by a moderate expenditure of money on account of the Commission*. Whenever practicable, special authority for this purpose may be requested by telegraph.

“Regimental surgeons also frequently err in the opposite

" extreme, sending patients to general hospital who have some  
 " simple illness which would yield to judicious treatment under  
 " canvas, in a few days. Experience is needed to enable the  
 " judgment to be exercised confidently in discriminating between  
 " proper and improper cases for camp treatment, and your oppor-  
 " tunities of observation and comparison will stand you in place of  
 " an extended experience in this respect. It is your primary duty,  
 " as it is that of the regimental surgeon, not to take care of the  
 " sick, but to guard against whatever weakens or embarrasses the  
 " use of the greatest possible strength of the regiment for warlike  
 " purposes. The surgeon's stores, and the hospital, and the ambu-  
 " lance, should all be instruments to the end of the utmost possible  
 " rapidity, spirit, and force of movement in the regiment. Discour-  
 " age whatever really weakens the regiment; encourage whatever  
 " tends to strengthen it against the enemy. Oftentimes tender-  
 " ness to individuals is not true humanity; and the surgeon whose  
 " baggage impedes an advance or a retreat, may easily be the  
 " cause of more suffering than the one who carries the hospital  
 " stores for a regiment in a knapsack, or whose medicines and  
 " instruments are all conveyed in a pocket-case.

" The surgeon should be prepared for battle duty. If he has  
 " an ambulance, has he a trusty driver for it, and an ambulance  
 " corps, upon which he can depend under fire? Do they know  
 " how to lift and carry a man with shattered limbs? Do they  
 " know that water is more precious than gold to those who follow  
 " the track of a battle, and are they instructed how to secure it  
 " and administer it providently? Beds and sheets and wine and  
 " delicate food in the hospital tent are of little consequence to the  
 " regiment compared with these preparations."

After all, the chief ground of trust that the evil will be over-  
 balanced by the good, in any attempt to supply the necessities

of proper hospital management from other than governmental stores, must rest upon the deliberate judgment of the Inspector in each particular case, after due consideration of all the circumstances affecting it.

Thus it is of the highest importance that those employed in this duty should be men possessed not only of good professional judgment, but men whose faculties of moral and intellectual analysis are rapid and trustworthy; and for this, with regard to the Inspectors of the Commission, I am held responsible for having reasonable grounds of assurance.\* But it is obvious that something more is needed than even professional skill and the best possible common sense; and that is, a thorough familiarity with the army regulations and customs. An Inspector almost needs to be in fact a military lawyer. For this reason an Inspector is rarely placed in any responsible position till he has had several weeks' training under constant superintendence, and has had time and opportu-

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\*The following statement with regard to the Inspectors of the Commission was made in the Report to the Secretary of War, dated December 9th, 1861, of which copies were furnished the Cincinnati branch:

"Fourteen well qualified physicians are now employed by the Commission, each having a defined portion of the army under his observation. Six other gentlemen, each possessed of special acquirements, are engaged on special duties. A list of their names and of the posts to which they are respectively assigned is appended. *It is proper to record the fact that they have in several cases withdrawn from positions far more remunerative than that now occupied by them, and have undertaken their present duty from motives of the highest benevolence and patriotism.* Others have declined the office of Brigade Surgeon, tendered them by the War Department, to enter on what they considered a wider field of usefulness in the service of the Commission. No one is now employed on this duty who is not entitled, by education, experience, and social standing, to speak with a certain degree of moral authority; and whatever success the Commission may have attained in the execution of its duties, is believed to be due as much to the high character and intelligence of its Inspectors, as to all the other advantages it has enjoyed."

I refer with reluctance to the observations of the Cincinnati Committee upon the subject of paid and unpaid service. A majority of the Commission's employees have, at the outset, offered to serve it gratuitously. For reasons



nity to familiarize himself with the practices of the quartermaster, commissary, and medical purveyor's departments of the service.

Where, however, the information and judgment of the Inspector cannot be wholly relied upon, as must be the case at least with the younger members of the staff, it by no means follows that the work they do will be harmful. It is the duty of each Inspector to keep a record of his observations, and to report frequently, fully, and accurately of the character of every hospital he visits, as well as the general character of the hospitals in his field of observation, their common deficiencies, and the causes of these. From all the information thus received, the Commission will be prepared to advise reforms and improvements of the supply system, the removal of neglectful surgeons from important responsibilities, and the promotion of those whose special fidelity and capacity is brought to their notice.\* Nor is the influence without its value, which, by this careful and ubiqi-

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which are satisfactory to the Commission, the names of all persons permanently employed in direct communication with the army in the field, are put on its pay-roll with salaries bearing some relation, in their amount, to the character of the service required of each. As a rule, salaries are payable monthly, and all balances not receipted for within one month of their falling due, are credited as contributions to the treasury. I believe that four-fifths of the officers of the Commission were either withdrawn from, or have been withheld from accepting, positions in which their pecuniary compensation would have been larger than it has been under the Commission, by motives which should be honored. The compensation for services which have been rendered the sick and wounded of the army and navy through the Commission, gratuitously, would, at the ordinary rates of professional charges, amount to considerably more than fifty thousand dollars.

\* It would hardly be proper for me to state what the Commission has done in this way. I will venture, however, to repeat an assertion recently made by the President that the improvement which had been accomplished in the administration of the medical service of the army, and which has been due principally to action of members of the Commission, is worth more, ten times over, to the sick and wounded than every thing that has been done by the Commission and all other agencies, intended to benefit them, together.



tous surveillance of the army hospitals, can be exercised by the Commission, upon the reputation of the surgeons having them in charge, in the medical community of civil life. Many a surgeon of the army knows that he is now making or marring the fortunes of his life through the judgment formed of his character by the inspection systems, general and special, established by the Commission.\*

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\* As it may become necessary to place this report in the hands of some who will not have been informed of the "special inspection system," here alluded to, Document No. 56 of the Commission, just published, is referred to as giving a full account of it. Application was made, in September, (immediately after the receipt of the first donation from California,) to one hundred of the marked men of the medical profession throughout the country, whose established duties and other circumstances had prevented them from accepting engagements in the military medical service, to enter the service of the Sanitary Commission for short periods, for the purpose of making a special examination of the treatment of the sick and wounded of the army in the general hospitals. Fifty of those to whom application was made have, up to the present time, accepted the invitation of the Commission, and twenty-four have been actually engaged in duty at different points, or are now on their way to distant stations. Assignments to duty are at this moment being executed by these special inspectors, as follows: To general hospitals at Nashville, Lexington, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Louisville, Evansville, New Albany, Keokuk, St. Louis, Mound City, Philadelphia, Washington, Newbern, Beaufort, New Orleans. The well established fame in their profession of many of the gentlemen constituting this special corps of inspection gives great influence and authority to their suggestions with every hospital surgeon. Their reports are made with great care; briefs of them are always prepared for and transmitted to the Surgeon General, and the facts and opinions presented invariably receive the most respectful attention from the Department. Dr. H. G. Clark, the Inspector in Chief, lately reported as follows:

"An examination of the reports of the Inspectors, at different and consecutive dates, will also show, in many instances, a very marked and progressive improvement in the condition of the hospitals inspected.

"This improvement has, no doubt, been partly owing to the natural effects of time and the better experience and opportunities of the officers in charge, but partly, also, I am assured by the surgeons themselves, to the friendly influence of the Inspectors, and of the establishment, in this way, of a sort of standard of excellence. In fact, it is impossible but that the opinions of men of standing and knowledge in the profession should have its proper weight upon a class of earnest, hardworking, and many of them capable, men, upon whom the acci-

The third condition under which supplies supplementary to those furnished by Government may with advantage be provided by the public is on the occasion of certain emergencies. The movements of an army, just before and during a great battle, are generally so influenced by the events of the moment, and the exhaustion of all other resources during the battle is generally so great, that the supply of hospital stores from governmental sources is liable to be poorest when the need is greatest.

Under such circumstances, commanding officers seldom think it necessary to maintain the usual restraints with regard to the movements of any who profess to come to the field for the purpose of aiding the wounded. It cannot, of course, be expected that the Commission should be more scrupulous than the military authorities, and its ordinary rules may safely be in part suspended. How can its organization be best turned to use, is a question which can be answered only with such a knowledge of the circumstances of any particular battle as it will have been the duty of its Inspectors in the vicinity to obtain. It will ordinarily have happened that a battle was anticipated, and that for a short time beforehand the available resources of the Commis-

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dents of war have unexpectedly and suddenly cast the gravest labors and responsibilities.

"I must not omit to notice here another instrumentality, which has, in a very important degree, contributed, in my judgment, to the establishment of the 'entente cordiale' between the surgeons and the officers of the Commission."

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"The meetings have been fully attended, and the result has been the formation of a permanent society, which, with a very simple organization, takes cognizance of all matters relating to the hygiene, the administration of military hospitals, and the care of their inmates.

"The active members comprise the surgical staff within the District, and some of the officers of the Commission; but it affiliates to itself, *as associates, all the surgeons of the army and navy*, and all the *medical* members of the Commission, inviting them all to contribute to its stores of knowledge, and inviting them to partake freely of its benefits."

sion with the army engaged had been husbanded with reference to it. When the battle occurs, more goods may need to be distributed in a day than in months before, and the ordinary force of the Commission in the vicinity will be quite inadequate for the purpose. Whoever comes, then, will be invited to aid in their work of mercy, the Inspectors doing all they can to direct these volunteers, as well as their regular assistants, to those parts of the field where the greatest good is to be accomplished by the distribution of the stores at their command. As the news of the battle spreads, aid, both of goods and hands, will come, hour after hour, in increasing quantity. The Commission's goods, which have been accumulated in the vicinity, will soon be exhausted, perhaps sooner than consignments will arrive which have been called for after the battle. Meanwhile, will there be nothing for the agents of the Commission, who have by this time, probably, thoroughly studied the whole field and the vicinity, to do? Obviously, the new comers, who will be bringing the first fruit of the excited sympathy of the nearest loyal districts, will need the aid of their experience to guide them in its most merciful distribution. It is no more than the simplest prudence, then, to calculate somewhat on this course of events beforehand, to arrange the affairs of the Commission with some regard to it, and to expect that others will to some extent depend upon their being so arranged.

The established medium of connection between the Commission and the loyal public being its body of associate members, and it being a part of the duty assigned in advance to associate members (See ante p. 16) "so to direct the labors of associations" of the people, "*that they may strengthen and support those of the Commission,*" the proceeding thus sketched as most likely to occur, under the simplest dictates of common sense, is almost precisely that which has occurred in practice in every considerable battle of



the war on this side of the Mississippi. Take that of Fort Donelson, for instance.\* Under advice from Gen. Grant, the Commission had, a short time before this battle, got together a good stock of hospital stores at Cairo, drawing largely on its dépôts at Boston and New York for this purpose. From these it first furnished clothing, dressings, and bedding very largely to hospitals at Cairo and Mound City, which were expressly prepared to receive the wounded of the expected battle. It next largely equipped and sent stores, with an Inspector, on board a floating-hospital, provided by Government at the suggestion of an officer of the Commission.† This was stationed, when the battle occurred, at the

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\* I had, shortly before, in anticipation of a battle in Kentucky, telegraphed to Dr. Newberry, offering to detach the most experienced Inspector of our force in the East, that he might be added to the number of those in Kentucky, and on his replying that he was not needed, I wrote urging that the Inspectors in Kentucky should be strongly reinforced with men, horses, money, and goods. The Associate Secretary and Inspector of the Commission at St. Louis were at the same time directed to hold themselves in readiness to move with the forces then in Missouri, which afterwards fought the battle at Fort Donelson.

† This was the first floating-hospital of the present war, the statement of the Cincinnati Committee on this subject being a mistake. Both at the East and the West, it was the policy of the Commission to induce Government to provide completely for the sick and wounded, as far as practicable, and not to take any duty which was deemed to properly belong to officers of Government until it was clearly necessary. The Western Sanitary Commission of St. Louis, having taken upon itself the duty of fitting up the hospital boats on the Mississippi, before the Sanitary Commission had thought it necessary to further assume this duty, (but not till after the Commission had urged the necessity of providing such accommodations for the forces on the Mississippi, upon Government,) it was, thereafter, mainly left in their hands until Government adopted the arrangement in full. A similar policy was followed in the East three months later. After waiting till the Army of the Potomac had commenced the siege of Yorktown, finding that the Government would not provide suitable accommodations, the Commission solicited the privilege of fitting up vessels for this purpose. The expenses of the western hospital boats, so far as not paid by Government, were chiefly defrayed by collections made in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, for the express purpose by the "Western Sanitary Commission" of St. Louis. Those of the eastern fleet, from similar collections, at the same points, through the treasury of the Commission.



point nearest the field then accessible by an unarmed boat. As soon as the works were taken, this boat was brought to the landing of the fort itself, and the goods of the Commission on board were thus made available at the earliest moment possible, and the whole field was explored in person by the Inspector. It next placed another Inspector with an assortment of hospital stores sufficient for five hundred patients, at Paducah, the nearest point to the battle ground at which fixed hospital accommodations could be prepared, and whither, as soon as possible after the battle, the wounded were brought in large numbers. But the resources at hand of the Commission had been all exhausted both at Paducah and Fort Donelson, as well as at Cairo, when aid began to arrive from the Commission's associates. Four of its experienced medical officers, three of whom were well informed as to the locality and arrangements of all the hospitals and dépôts of the wounded and of the plans of the medical officers, were then ready to give the most judicious guidance to this aid. Of the expeditions arriving, the most important was that organized by the associate members of the Commission in Cincinnati, which brought to the ground the Western Secretary of the Commission himself, under whose advice its operations were directed, as reported to the Commission in person shortly afterwards by a delegation of the Cincinnati associates. The promptness of the Cincinnati associates, in leading off and ably directing the popular eagerness of their fellow citizens to give aid and comfort to the brave men who had been stricken down in this important battle, was all that the members of the Commission could ask, and their satisfaction was accordingly expressed in a vote of thanks and the request of a historical sketch of the expedition for publication. This was the formal vote by which, as argued by the committee, the "policy and methods" of their branch was sanctioned and established as a part of the policy and methods of the Sanitary Commission.

Again, at Pittsburg Landing, the Commission had, a week before the battle occurred, sent more than 8,000 articles of hospital clothing to Savannah, Tennessee, the nearest point at which hospitals could then be prepared. These stores were all available for the first wounded men removed from the field, and, in the terrible destitution resulting from the unexpectedly great losses of the battle, they were of inestimable value. Instantly on the receipt of the first telegraphic despatches of the battle at the dépôt of the Commission at Cairo, a hundred cases more of selected hospital stores, including chloroform, styptics, morphine, stimulants, and many other things for want of which men were dying by hundreds, and which had been got here ready in anticipation, not of this, but of any such emergency, were placed in the first boat leaving, and with a reinforcement of seven relief agents sent forward the same day. Before these goods had been distributed and the relief agents posted where they could render the greatest service, another steamer arrived with another and still larger quantity of most carefully selected and valuable hospital stores, sent directly to the care of the Inspectors of the Commission by its associate members at Chicago. Twenty surgeons and forty selected nurses, from Chicago, also arrived by this boat, who were immediately organized, and stationed where aid was most needed, by the chief officer of the Commission on the ground, acting in all things with the concurrence of the Medical Director. Just after this, again, came a boat under the direction of the associate members of the Commission at Cincinnati; and a little later came a perfect fleet of steamboats, all swelling the stream of relief of which the spring had been opened by the Commission, simultaneously with the battle itself. It was the same at Corinth, at Perryville, at Roanoke Island, at Williamsburg, and West Point; at every battle on the Chickahominy and the James; at Winches-

ter, at Cedar Mountain, at Centreville, at West Mountain, and at Antietam; and should the telegraph bring news of battles to-day at Holly Springs or Fredericksburg, the Commission knows that, at each point, there are several of its trusty and experienced Inspectors provided with many tons of selected stores and means of rapidly and carefully distributing them, while, at the nearest safe point in the rear, there are large reserves to be thrown promptly forward when these fail or are cut off.\*

What part, then, should the associate members of the Commission take in the work to be done on these occasions? Precisely that which it was contemplated they would take in such emergencies from the day the Commission was organized; precisely that which they have hitherto very generally taken; precisely that which the Commissioners themselves always take; which the chairman of the committee I am now addressing took after Antietam, and which his associate in that committee took after the battle of Pittsburg Landing.

The only question can be, whether, when they reach the battleground, they shall place themselves and those they bring with them, with their goods, absolutely at the disposal of the officers of the Commission, or whether they shall simply propose to act under the advice of these officers. The first course the Commission has no right to require of them, it being no part of the duty which those who accept the office of associate members have been publicly invited to undertake. Moreover, if they are to be placed, by virtue of their office, under the control of the officers of the Commission, they will become qualified agents of the Commission, and the

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\* Since this was written the battle of Fredericksburg has occurred, and the work of the Commission's agents has been precisely what was anticipated, the delegates of "the Christian Commission" voluntarily placing a large portion of their stores and of their personal services at the disposal of the officers of the Sanitary Commission on the ground.



Secretary of the Commission will be held accountable for them to the War Department. It will be evident that this would be unjust if it is considered that the right of selection and appointment of such agents would be distributed among five hundred associate members, and that they would not necessarily have received any previous instruction as to their rights and duties while under military rule.

What might possibly happen in this case is illustrated by an incident of recent occurrence: A day or two after one of the severe battles in Maryland the rebels having retreated across the Potomac, several regiments of United States troops were sent over the river to follow them. After a severe encounter with the enemy, our forces were repulsed and obliged to retire across the river, leaving their dead and wounded on the other side. The next day some benevolently-disposed gentlemen, acting apparently as an independent committee, without waiting, as they said, "for the formality of a regular flag of truce," forded the river, in company with several officers and privates, (who had been only a few weeks in service,) for the purpose of assisting the wounded and identifying the dead, and, hoisting a white handkerchief, improvised a flag of truce for themselves. The pickets of the enemy, supposing them to have proper authority, allowed them to come within their lines. The pickets, some hours afterwards, discovering the party to be unauthorized, ordered them to return, which they did; some of the accompanying soldiers, (in unconscious ignorance of the nature of a flag of truce, it was asserted,) bringing away arms, and actually capturing a prisoner! The next day a regularly authorized flag of truce was arrested, the flag refused, though accompanied by a regular officer, and the parties accompanying it found themselves in possession of the enemy, with a fair prospect of their being sent to Richmond. The rebel officer who met the flag stated, in ex-



planation, that "a party had been over the day before, under pretence of a flag of truce, and had stolen arms, &c., and that he was directed by General Lee to refuse any flag whatever." The entire flag of truce party were then obliged to return across the river and wait upon the opposite shore, until after three hours consumed in explanatory correspondence between the commanding officers, and a formal disavowal of the improper acts of the day before, they were allowed to proceed upon their mission. The actions of the unauthorized truce party coming to the knowledge of one of the United States Medical Directors, he expressed great indignation at the utter want of discipline which it evinced, and denounced the whole performance in unmeasured terms, declaring that "such a party deserved to be shot.

It is easy to see how men who are liable to make such mistakes as this may be no inconsiderable annoyance to the commander of an army, and that the effective power of the army may even be quite seriously impaired through the ignorance and blundering of civilians, who are anxious to bustle about, in independent movement, instead of acting strictly in subordination to the military authorities.

Had the Sanitary Commission been in any manner responsible for the conduct of this unauthorized truce-party, the President would have been perfectly justified in withdrawing his commission from it. This is no reason, however, why the Commission should not be thankful for any extraneous aid which may be offered in such emergencies. Much less should the Commission discourage the gentlemen to whom it looks as its medium of communication with the public from seeking to lead and control the public impulse to offer such aid in the best practicable way which they find open. By the publications which it sends to them, the Commission endeavors to keep these gentlemen informed of the principles desirable to be had in view in all attempts to give vol-

untee aid to the regular provision of Government for the sick and wounded, and of the experience and observation of its agents in their endeavors to organize relief for battle-field sufferers. Why should it not, then, when its associates in any town or district are embodied in a local organization, call upon them, in emergencies, to endeavor to direct the inexperienced efforts of the public to provide aid for the wounded in such a way that it shall harmonize with the labors of the Commission's agents, strengthen their hands, and replenish their stores? Is it not entirely consistent with the whole theory upon which the Commission operates, that it should do so? Is it more, or is it less, than the associate members were asked to undertake in the printed letter of June, 1861, copies of which were sent to every member of the Cincinnati branch before he took upon him the obligations which the Commission, by his election, invited him to assume? After a diligent study of the Report of the Cincinnati Committee, I confess myself unable to decide. Yet this is exactly what was had in view, and it is all that was had in view, in the concluding words of the paragraph, to which the Cincinnati Committee so warmly object in my circular to those "who stay at home." "*In emergencies, branch societies are often called upon to aid the Commission even more directly in the performance of its duties.*"

That there was nothing new or peculiar to the General Secretary, in this view of the proper duty to be undertaken by the branches in connection with the officers of the Commission, on the occasion of emergencies of battle, within accessible distance of loyal communities, namely, to lead, guide, harmonize and systematize the eager and desultory efforts of the people, to the end of bringing about the speedy and complete relief of suffering, the following extract from Dr. Newberry's report of the battle

of Pittsburg Landing, addressed to this office immediately afterwards, will sufficiently demonstrate :

“ A large number of other boats were sent by the efficient  
 “ branches of our Commission which now exist throughout the  
 “ Western States, and nearly all were fitted out by our stores,  
 “ and were accompanied by our associate members.

“ This splendid display of humanity may therefore be re-  
 “ garded as the exponent of the value of our organization, and  
 “ in a great part the legitimate fruit of the efforts we have made  
 “ and the system we have adopted for ‘promoting the health,  
 “ comfort and efficiency of our volunteer troops.’

“ It is true, that in the luxuriant growth of the measures of  
 “ relief in which the interest of the people in the success of our  
 “ arms, and the fate of brothers, sons, husbands and lovers has  
 “ expressed itself, symmetry has been often lost, and system  
 “ overshadowed ; yet, while we have to regret that in many  
 “ cases the efforts for the relief of suffering have been irregular,  
 “ wasteful, fruitless and even harmful, we can congratulate our-  
 “ selves that, on the whole, incalculable good has been done, in  
 “ which all should heartily rejoice.

“ The part which Dr. Douglas, Dr. Prentice and myself were  
 “ able to perform in the great work which has been done at Pitts-  
 “ burg Landing, was, I think, not without its value and impor-  
 “ tance. It was to harmonize and systematize, so far as possible,  
 “ the diverse, and sometimes discordant elements which are in  
 “ action in a common cause.

“ Through our relations with the military and medical author-  
 “ ities, we were able to facilitate the accomplishment of the objects  
 “ for which our friends had come, and to effect the more speedy  
 “ and complete relief of the suffering.

“ It affords me sincere pleasure to say that at all times and in



“all cases, we were most courteously and kindly treated by those  
 “in authority, and a degree of respect and consideration  
 “accorded to us, as the representatives of our Commission,  
 “which was most gratifying to us and complimentary to it.”\*

The second, fundamental rule governing the service of the Commission, rests upon the fact that its name, authority, privileges, and duty are derived from the President of the United States, without law or recommendation of Congress or of any State authority. The President is responsible for the Commission. The members of the Commission are deputies of the President. It is right for them to do nothing that it would be wrong for him to do. The President is the federal head of the country, standing for its unity as other branches of the government stand for its parts. So must the Commission. Whatever is contributed to its treasury or stores, then, must come into a common stock. All its work must be with a common and comprehensive purpose. It is not necessary that each man who acts for the Commission should himself look over the whole country and the whole army. It is necessary that the work done by each man should be an undivided part of a work which comprehends in its purpose the whole country and the whole army. No one can be allowed to work in the name of the Commission who does not work in subordination to this common purpose. No drafts can be rightly made from the common stock without due regard is had to the wants of all interested in that stock.

It is alleged that it is impossible for a board or a secretary at Washington to appreciate the necessities of the army in the West, and to adapt the organization or the rules of the Commission to these necessities. The same might be said with regard

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\* 2,500 copies of this report were printed and circulated at the time.



to the army in the far South, and it is obvious that the same might be said of the "Army Regulations," or of the duty of the President of the United States in the West and the South. As a practical fact, the President does not see either the West or the East with his own eyes, and the affairs of the Government will truly be in a bad way when the President's means of obtaining information of the wants of the West are less effective than his means of obtaining information of the wants of the East, because the Federal capital is geographically in the East. It being clear that a Governor at Columbus cannot see the needs of the people anywhere else as well as at Columbus; if to see these wants with his own eyes is what is required of the executive office of the business of a State, the same reasoning should detach Cincinnati from the State of Ohio.

It is true, however, that in meeting the sudden wants of the wounded at the West there might be a loss in prompt and efficient action if the use of the central resources of the Commission could only be commanded at Washington. Perceiving this, perceiving, also, that there were local jealousies, ambitions, and rivalries operating at the West, the importance of consulting which I could not appreciate, and also that my want of familiarity with western communications might in time lead me to some unintentional injustice, or to unnecessary expenditure, in a desire to avoid all possibility of injustice to the West, I proposed to the Commission, soon after I entered upon my duties, to authorize the appointment of a deputy chief executive officer to reside at the West. A western member of the Commission, my senior in it, supposed to be charged fully with its spirit, and familiar from the outset with its whole mode of work, was appointed to this position. The committee of the Cincinnati branch have distinctly acknowledged that a better man, or one more acceptable to them, could

not have been selected. I have never heard an intimation to the contrary from any source.\*

I have said that contributions to the Commission must come to a common stock. The Cincinnati committee declare this to be a new doctrine and may allege that it is but a recent inference from the letter of the commission. So far is it otherwise that, from the first day to this, of my service to the Commission, I have declined to receive, or to allow other agents of the Commission reporting to me, to become responsible for goods or money offered for a special purpose, or with any restriction upon the place where, the body or persons to whom, or the mode by which, such contributions should be applied. When funds have, in exceptional cases, been received by agents of the Commission for a special department of its duty, I have not allowed them to account to me for the use of such funds. Amendments to papers read before the Commission have been made, at my request, by unanimous vote, for the avowed purpose of maintaining in the minds of its agents the fact that it could officially take cognizance of nothing which was not of the common stock.†

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\* Since this was written, it has been asserted that certain members of the Cincinnati branch do not regard Dr. Newberry with favor. I know of no reason for this except that he has expostulated with them, as he states, for pursuing a method of forwarding relief goods for the army of which he could not approve.

† The fact that a majority of the Executive Committee are physicians, residing in New York, thus allowing its sessions to be held without wholly withdrawing its members from their important ordinary duties in society, leads this committee to be called upon to meet many wants of recruits and of hospitals at New York, which appeal here, as elsewhere, strongly to the feelings of the citizens, and which could readily be made a most effective ground for a call for funds to be especially collected for their remedy. But the committee having sometimes determined, where prompt action was required, to meet these wants, have always drawn upon the general fund and stores for the purpose. This adherence to the rule above given may seem to be not consistent with the statement on page 16 with regard to services to troops

Whatever has been under the control of the Commission, at any point, has thus always been considered as a part of a common stock, to be drawn upon wherever it was most wanted in the field of the war; to be everywhere held and guarded for all. The dépôts of the Commission on the Atlantic have been as ready to meet the wants of the army in the West as those on the Ohio or Mississippi. Hundreds of cases have been shipped from dépôts at Boston, New York, and Philadelphia upon the shortest possible telegraphic calls from Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee. No such call from an authorized agent of the Commission has ever been disregarded. No explanations have been required; no credit taken for generosity. The thought that there was more generosity in aiding the army when operating against our enemy on the west side of the Alleghanies, than when on the east, has never, to my knowledge, received utterance at the East. It is universally understood that what is contributed to the dépôts of the Commission goes to a common stock for the whole army, wherever it may be. But, for the same reason that I wanted a deputy at the West, possessed of whatever prestige might be supposed to attach to a commission from the President, I have allowed issues from the common stock and the common treasury to be made more freely at the West than at the East. For instance, at the East, Inspectors' requisitions for goods from the common stock are, under ordinary circumstances, required to be approved and endorsed by one of the Secretaries before issues can be made upon them. This precaution against local favor at the expense of the common stock has been generally neglected at the West; Inspectors drawing directly from the receiving

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within the loyal States. It is not but it may be justified, as an exception, on the ground that, by reason of such action, the committee had been able to increase the contributions of New York to the store and treasury of the Commission by much more than the amount thus issued by them for local relief.



dépôts. This was because the Western Secretary, contrary to my personal judgment, was of the opinion that the greater security for equitable distribution which would result from keeping the control of all considerable movements of goods closely within his own hand, would be of less value than the more prompt and ready meeting of the ordinary demands of the several western columns which was supposed to be secured by the course adopted.

With regard to issues from the Treasury, the custom has been for the Western Secretary to send me a monthly estimate for ordinary expenditures of money required for the western operations of the Commission. Such estimates are subject to my review, but their amounts have never been in the least reduced by me, and the amount called for has in every case, with the approval of the Treasurer, been promptly remitted. In addition to these calls for ordinary expenditures, special calls have frequently been made by the Western Secretary upon the Central Office. With a single exception, (when a short delay occurred because of a recent general order of the Executive Committee, which had been unknown to the Western Secretary when making his draft,) these calls have also, in every case, been promptly and fully met. I have sometimes transmitted twice the amount called for. I have never reduced it by one dollar. I have frequently urged the Western Secretary to enlarge his operations and expenditures; but, even when the treasury of the Commission was at its lowest, and I was contracting operations and dismissing agents on that account elsewhere, I have never advised him to contract or reduce at the West. It is my duty to see that the army is as well provided at the West, in those particulars wherein the executive organization of the Commission can aid it, as at the East or the South. I believe that it has been. I will not

assert that there has been no reason for such suspicions as are expressed by the Cincinnati Committee, but I trust that it will appear that they have been chiefly derived from the fact that the army in the West has been, for the most part, less compactly massed, less frequently operating with the enemy in force close upon it, and that, consequently, there have usually been less stringent restrictions upon direct popular communication with its hospitals than with those of the Army of the Potomac.

For another reason many hospitals of the Army of the Potomac have received, during long periods, no assistance at all from any source of volunteered supply except at the hands of the agents of the Commission. This is to be found in the fact that a very much larger proportion of the regiments of the Army of the Potomac than of any other part of the army have been recruited in large towns and manufacturing districts, and, to a considerable extent, from the foreign born population of these. It is a fact that the poorer people in our towns, and especially the foreign born of them, send little or nothing to the hospitals, while the wealthier classes of our eastern towns either send nothing in the form of hospital goods or send very much less than the people of the rural districts for the special use of regiments raised in their own neighborhoods. A larger proportion of the Army of the Potomac being composed of town-recruited regiments than of any part of the army in the West, there is constantly a larger proportion of its hospitals, the inmates of which are found, by the Inspectors of the Commission, to be in need of supplies, which they are able to obtain from no other source than the Commission's common stock.

Not only is the town population of the West less in proportion to its whole population than that of the East, but the difference between town communities and rural communities is less in the West than in the East. Western townspeople are generally less federal

and more locally bound in their benevolent inclinations than the townspeople of the East. There are five regiments sent from the city of Chicago, for instance, for whose exclusive benefit I believe that much more than half of all the voluntary gifts of the people of that city for the sick and wounded of the forces of the Union have been, hitherto, by express stipulation, rigidly restricted. The hospitals of these five regiments were not long since reported to me not only to be actually encumbered with the gifts they had received, but to have a hospital reserve-fund laid up in bank of over sixty thousand dollars. Besides which, as I am informed, there is a large stock of goods kept back in Chicago, from which supplies are sent to them at the first intimation from their surgeons that they will not be in the way.\* I know of no regiments in the army of the Potomac thus liberally provided for, and, as a general rule, the city regiments of the East receive little or no direct assistance from the city people. One hundred regiments have probably been raised in the cities of New York and Massachusetts, whose sick and wounded have had

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\* It should not be forgotten that when wounded in any important battle, the men of these regiments have very little, if any, better chance than others of escaping the good offices of the Sanitary Commission. It is ten to one that in any important movement, and when relief would have its highest value, they will be separated from their baggage-wagons and their regimental surgeons, and if wounded, thrown into general field-hospitals, where it would not be in the heart of a savage to maintain any distinctions save those established by degrees of suffering. It is a fact most creditable to our men, that under these circumstances, the offer of assistance coupled with state preferences, is generally received with indignation. "Are there any Pennsylvania men here?" asked a man, looking in upon a barn-floor half covered with wounded Pennsylvanians, after Antietam. There was no answer, and the question was repeated: the man entering with a large basket, "are there any Pennsylvania men here?" "No sir," faintly answered a young hero at his feet, "some of us came from Pennsylvania, but we are all Union men now." "Are you not the boy I gave a bottle of wine to yesterday?" "Yes." "Where is it?" "Why I sent it round, d'ye think I'd keep it to myself because I came from Pennsylvania. Some of these men wanted it more'n I did. Tell you, we are all Union men here."



less direct provision made for them altogether, by the people of those cities, than the wounded of these five regiments alone will have had secured to them, by the people of Chicago. The inference that the people of the eastern cities had been less patriotic, or sympathetic, or liberal, would be unjust, unless it could be shown that their contributions for the wounded of the whole fighting forces of the Union had been relatively less than those of the citizens of Chicago, which may or may not be the case; but the inference that they are more federal, and regardless of personal and local predilections in their patriotism and benevolence is, at present, not to be avoided.

I have shown that it is regarded as the duty of the Commission to see that all goods received by it for the army come practically into a common stock, and that this stock is drawn upon, *according to the relative wants, not otherwise met, of the sick and wounded*, of the different divisions of the army. How is this to be done? Absolutely and perfectly, to the fraction of a parcel, it would obviously be absurd to attempt it. To a reasonable approximation of accuracy, how can it be? Certainly not by the method of the Cincinnati branch; certainly not by that of the Western Sanitary Commission; I mean no disrespect to either. It is not what they propose. The Western Sanitary Commission has taken at least twenty thousand dollars, and more than a thousand cases of goods, probably, from the States of Massachusetts and New York. It has transported these goods at no inconsiderable cost to somebody, to St. Louis, and has then distributed them, with the wise zeal of the gentlemen who have the control of its operations. But to the soldiers of New York and Massachusetts, so far as I know, it has distributed nothing; to the soldiers of the Western States wounded on the Potomac, the Rapahannock, the Peninsula, in the Carolinas and on the Gulf, it has distributed nothing. It is not its province to do so. It is the

province of the Sanitary Commission to see that all within the field of active operations, as far as practicable, are equally well provided for.

Hence by the method of the Sanitary Commission, all hospitals within the field of active operations, are intended to be inspected at frequent intervals by physicians of ability in their profession, just-minded and discreet, reserved and trustworthy. This intention, at least, is carried out as well in the West as in the East. Of the sixteen Inspectors at present employed by the Commission, eight are stationed in the States of Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas. Ten are west of the Mississippi. These Inspectors make stated frequent reports to central offices intermediate between them and the people, and upon the best judgment which can be formed by the chief executive officers of the Commission stationed at these places, the most direct movement practicable toward the different positions of the army hospitals is given to the offerings of the people, according to the varying necessities of the hospitals in each quarter. These central offices are intended to be also in constant correspondence with collecting agencies in the midst of loyal communities, in order to bring goods at all times by the shortest and most economical routes to the common-stock depots under their control.

Before its arrangements for collection were complete, the Commission itself sent many hundred cases of goods from its Eastern depots to be distributed at the West. But it has lately been found that in respect to certain important classes of supplies, the contributions of the people of the West to the army have been more liberal than those of the East. Hence it has happened in emergencies, when the Eastern depots of the Commission were exhausted, that it would be more economical as well as more expeditious and life-saving to purchase such stores as were imperatively needed than to transport them from the Western dépôts. The same

thing has been done at the West, not so much, so frequently or so largely, only because there has been less necessity for it. The resource has always been ready to be used at the West as freely as at the East, and as far as I have been able to ascertain from the reports of the Western officers and members of the Commission, it has been used as freely, relatively to the wants of the West.

That the necessity of purchasing stores at the West has been less than at the East is owing, it must be acknowledged, in considerable part, to the irregular action of such agencies as the Western Sanitary Commission, which has taken large quantities of goods from the East to be distributed at the West, and to the State relief agents. There is no Eastern Sanitary Commission; nor are the benevolent operations of the people of any State of the East directed with reference to the assistance of the troops of that State to the degree, which this is the case in several western States.

That these methods of relief of limited scope, which prevail not exclusively at the West, but much more there than at the East, have their advantages is not to be denied: nor is it to be denied that they have their peculiar disadvantages. One of these is, that goods often travel great distances to be given to troops already abundantly provided for, while troops to whom they might have been as cheaply and quickly sent, may be suffering for the need of them.

I could point to a body of hospitals in which the patients have been for months better provided for than any other in the United States, yet I see appeals made by certain societies, whose agents are particularly devoting themselves to this body of hospitals, for contributions in aid of them, and I know that such contributions are constantly being sent to them from a distance of many hundred miles, passing on their way through the very midst of



another body of hospitals, the patients of which are not provided with one-fourth as much of extra-governmental supplies.

Goods are known to have been sent last week by citizens of Chicago, who choose not to avail themselves of the arrangements of the Commission, by way of New York, to soldiers at Fredericksburg, in Virginia; goods of the same kind were being sent the same day from New York by way of Chicago, to soldiers in Missouri. Many tens of thousands of dollars have in this way been wasted in freight since the war commenced. The goods which have been distributed to the soldiers in the hospitals in Missouri, have been drawn not from Illinois or other adjoining districts alone, but to an enormous extent from New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Goods indeed, in many cases, after bearing this immense transportation, have again been sent eastwardly, into Kentucky and Tennessee.

That the method of the Commission affords a completely adequate remedy for this, it might be too much to claim. That it does so as far as practicable, due regard being paid to a provident use of the funds at its command, I believe may be justly claimed.

But it may be asked, if any needed goods are contributed to the dépôts of the Commission more freely, relatively to the wants of the army at the nearest distance from the contributors, at the West than the East, why does not the Commission meet the wants of the army on the coast by a transportation of a fair proportion of the goods of the West to the East? Many of these goods are of a character requiring, and are packed with reference to direct transportation to the consumers and immediate consumption. They are very largely contributed on account of public reports of immediate wants in the army at the West. Similar accounts of special wants in the East do not result in immediate large contributions of the supplies wanted, so much as

in contributions of money to the treasury. It is neither in accordance with the wishes of the western contributors nor with a wise economy to convey the <sup>or</sup> contributions in goods of the West to the East unnecessarily, nor to convey the contributions of the East to the West in money unnecessarily. What the Commission has to do is to meet the *wants* of the sick and wounded everywhere, by the cheapest and most direct means at its command.

The Western associates of the Commission have chosen, because more convenient to them, to have much done for the army at the West by means of special contributions of goods, and of money expended directly by themselves, to obtain what they have deemed necessary to meet certain occasions. They have availed themselves of the services of the Commission's agents; have acted in the name of the Commission, and have been intending in good faith to advance the work of the Commission. On occasions, the associate members of the Commission in Chicago, a body of gentlemen as liberal, industrious, just, and prudent as any who have honored the Commission with their service in this capacity, have gathered ten thousand dollars worth of battle-field stores in a single day, and made their contribution in this form to the common-stock. On similar occasions in the East, the associate members in Boston have taken no special action at all; but while the associate members of the Commission in Chicago have collected \$1,000 for the Commission's common-stock treasury, the Boston associates have collected for it \$20,000. The Boston associates have a right then to say, as they have done, "If you stand in need of whiskey or beef-soup or fresh vegetables for that portion of the army nearest us, don't wait for us to send these goods, but buy them at once with the money we have given you." The Western associates have again and again said to the Commission, "Don't expect us to raise money, but if the army

wants anything which our citizens have in store, you may rely upon our getting a wholesale supply of it on any emergency which appeals to their sympathies.\* It would have been greatly folly to have attempted to gather contributions of stores at the West, for the purpose of transportation to the East, as a constant arrangement. Emergencies at the East, therefore, have generally called for larger direct expenditures of money, than emergencies at the West. But I have no reason to doubt that the stores of the Commission, since its collecting system has been well organized, have been on an average, as ample and as freely given to those needing them, at the West as at the East.

Reference here cannot be avoided to the delusion of the Cincinnati Committee in supposing that the suggestion of a "Western Council," to which so much importance is given in their report, proceeded from a desire to avoid a distribution among the Western associates, of the funds of the Commission, since the large donations from California have been announced. The first I heard of a suggestion looking in this direction was at a meeting of the Commission in Washington, which was attended by the chairman of the Cincinnati committee himself. I was then informed that he had entertained it with favor, and it was proposed that he should be a member of the body to be established. This was all before the first message was received from California. On the same occasion, I myself gave more exact form to the suggestion, and first employed the phrase "Western Council." Nothing whatever was intended by it, as far, at least, as I was concerned, but to give to Dr. Newberry's mind the support of the opinion and endorsement of others in making drafts upon the Commission's treasury. The suggestion was communicated by me to the President of the Commission; no action of the Commission was ever had upon it, and the first step has never yet been taken to carry it out.



The following passage from a communication addressed to Dr. Newberry, November 18th, 1861—more than a year ago, and before the Cincinnati branch was established—will, perhaps, more clearly show why such support might be felt to be desirable :

“ You are authorized to employ and discharge all agents ; to  
 “ determine remunerations for service ; to collect and distribute  
 “ money and supplies. Matters of the whole army, as [with]  
 “ the Surgeon-General, the allotment system, etc., belong strictly  
 “ to this [central] office. The governing purpose of the organi-  
 “ zation is to avoid delay and circumlocution to the end of ac-  
 “ complishing efficiency and directness of action. All practicable  
 “ checks and methods consistent with and subsidiary to this are  
 “ to be observed. None are to be cared for which assuredly in-  
 “ terfere with it. \* \* \*

“ What one man cannot<sup>\*</sup> do two must. It is immaterial  
 “ whether the work is done here or there. The question is one  
 “ of time, not of trouble. When the money gives out we are to  
 “ scuttle and go down—till then, do our work thoroughly.”

Yours cordially,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary.*

If the phrase “do our work thoroughly” should be analyzed to its root in the mind of the writer, it would be found to have this significance, “we are under obligations to see the sick and wounded of the Western armies as well cared for as the rest. While there is a dollar in our treasury, therefore, it must be placed by the Commission at your disposal, if it shall appear that it is more needed at the West than anywhere else. When the demands which this assurance lays the Commission open to receive from you can no longer be met, it will be time for it to resign, because no longer able to maintain the primary

condition of its right to exist." Obviously, an advisory council of three gentlemen of his own selection, would give confidence to Dr. Newberry in the use of this discretionary right of call. But is it not equally obvious that no such confidence could be rightly placed with committees formed at will by the associate members of the Commission? Is it not obvious that the existing method is more direct and efficient, as well as more certainly just and legal, than such an one would be?

No instructions abrogating those above cited have ever been given to Dr. Newberry, nor by word or action has the policy or the administration of the executive office of the Commission toward the West ever varied in the least from the spirit of those instructions.\*

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\* I am ashamed to feel forced to earnestly argue this question. Were it otherwise than it is, neither I nor any other member of the Commission would stand with it for an hour, for I doubt if there be one whose blood is not in the army in the west. My only brother, the very light of my father's house, which is left anxious and lonely, carries his musket to-day, in the ranks of a regiment in the valley of the Mississippi. If he falls, God will have accepted as pure an offering for mere love of the Union, and of what stands with the Union, as ever man and woman made. Ten of those who were under my roof, my friends and professional assistants, when the trumpet first sounded, are now in the military service of the Union, in hospital from honorable wounds, or have been slain by rebel bullets. One commands a Missouri brigade, another a Missouri regiment, and less than half of those living, are at this moment on the East side of the mountains. There has not been a battle in the West since the war commenced, that I have not lost a friend. Whoever publicly sustains the idea that armies operating in the West, are the peculiar property of the people resident in the West, not only encourages a mischievous, dangerous, and impracticable theory, but a false, cruel, unjust, and wicked sentiment.

There is recorded evidence, that a chief ground of hope with the greatest of the villains whom we have got to subdue before we can hope for any peace that shall not be more dreadful than war, has been the belief that when the burden of war became a trying one, divisions between the Atlantic and the Valley can be effected, and a hearty co-operation in the strength of the people of the country be rendered impossible. There are indications that we are approaching our time of trial, and upon what an American has been willing to do, to give, and to suffer, during the next year or two, to disappoint this hope, will forever hereafter depend his right to exist with self-respect.

To those who would say then, "I wish that what I have to offer, whether of goods or money, should go exclusively to comfort the wounded of my town, of my county, or of my State," or "to the wounded of the army which is nearest to me," or "of that which is at this moment most commanding the public interest," or "to those which are to be cared for in a particular locality," the organization of the Sanitary Commission is insufficient. There is room for methods which will meet this demand, and the Commission has never opposed itself to such methods, but it is not right that any method should be claimed to be that of the Sanitary Commission, which proposes to regard the army at the West by itself, or the army in the East by itself, or the army in the far South by itself.

To those who would say, "I wish that what I have to offer should go—if it will not cost more than it is worth to carry it there—to the point where it is wanted most, where it will do the most to relieve the suffering of the sick and wounded of the whole army of the Union," the Sanitary Commission can say, "this is exactly what we lay all our plans with a religious purpose to accomplish. Our means to this end are not perfectly adequate, but they are measurably so, far more so than any other that can be offered you, and their efficiency is constantly increasing; give us what you have to offer, and they will be more nearly perfect." This, in effect, is what the Commission has been constantly saying to the public ever since it was first organized. Every part of its organization has been intended to be subservient to this purpose. It was in subserviency to this purpose that it added the arrangement of "associate members" to its organization. It was in subserviency to this purpose that it authorized the organization of "branches."

The report of the Cincinnati branch is entitled "A Report upon



the relations of the Sanitary Commission and its branches," and its aim is to show that these branches were constituted at the request of the Sanitary Commission, or its agents, for the purpose of undertaking certain duties, among which duties one of the most important was that of administering, directly by the hands of the members, or indirectly by agents of their appointment, to the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers of the army in the field, independently of any method of distribution established by the Commission. The ordinary and generally understood meaning of the word branch is an out-growth, and the relations of an out-growth to that from which it proceeds are the functions which it performs with reference to its trunk, or which are performed by the trunk with reference to the outgrowth. The function of a branch in relation to its trunk may be either that of collection or feeding, or that of dissemination. It may be both. What it collects, however, it cannot immediately and independently disseminate; it must collect for and toward and into its trunk, or the common stock of all the branches; what it disseminates it disseminates from the common stock. This is the primary meaning of the word, and the ordinary usage of the word in its analogical sense, as applied to organizations, corresponds exactly to this. I do not say always or necessarily, though I know of no instance in which the contrary appears, from the Brick Lane Branch of the United Grand Junction Ebenezer Association, in the *Pickwick Papers*, to the branch banks of the United States Bank in the presidential messages of General Jackson. It does not follow that such must be always the case. It cannot be denied, however, that the common meaning should be assumed to be the true meaning, unless it plainly appears that a different meaning has been intentionally established.

The Cincinnati committee argue that this has been the case with reference to their organization.\*

“On the 27th of November,” says the Report, “a number of gentlemen, who had been notified *a few days before*, by Dr. Newberry, of their election to associate membership in the Sanitary Commission, were called together to meet him *at Dr. Mussey’s residence*; the objects *and methods* of the Sanitary Commission were explained by him, and at his suggestion the Cincinnati branch was organized.” Whether these gentlemen were at this time informed of the method of distribution, which, as I have shown, had already been established by the Commission, or not; and, whether they were distinctly informed, as the committee allege, that “one branch of the work” required of them “was to be the distribution, [to the army in the field,] as well as the collection of supplies for the army,” is a question the decision of which might be decisive, as to the point in debate. Upon this question the testimony offered by the committee is simply that of their memory—that is to say, it appears that the members of the

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\* Their argument is prefaced with the statement, that the Sanitary Commission had been nearly eight months in existence before any associate members in Cincinnati had been notified of their appointment; and the delay of notification is referred to as a neglect. It was apparently forgotten by the committee, for the fact must have been well known, that at least one gentleman of Cincinnati had been zealously engaged in the performance of the duties of associate membership to the Commission, as long as any other in the country, having been elected among the first, and within a week after his election having accompanied the President of the Commission and Dr. Newberry in an official visit to the various camps of the army in the West, from Cincinnati to beyond St. Louis. It may be well to state, also, that the very first active work of the Commission was with reference to the adoption, by Government, of a hospital at Cincinnati; a project, which, at the suggestion of this associate member, in June, 1861, was successfully presented to the War Department. It was probably unknown to the committee, that thirteen gentlemen of Cincinnati had been elected associate members of the Commission only at its meeting last preceding the date before which they admit that their notification of election had been received.

committee do not, at present, recollect that they were informed that the Commission had established any method of distribution, and, according to their recollection, they were distinctly informed that they were themselves called upon to establish such a method. They probably suppose that if this had not been the case, their course would have been different, and their present position different; and, therefore, that their statement must be correct. They offer no documentary evidence. Dr. Newberry's own recollection is quite different from that of the committee, and there is documentary evidence that Dr. Newberry's recollection is correct; and that the recollection of the committee is completely at fault. Before offering this, it will be necessary to again refer to the *history* of the executive organization of the Commission.

As before stated, with the knowledge and approval of the Commission, I had commenced, in July, 1861, the formation of an executive staff, by whose aid I could collect the information required by the Commission, and disseminate the advice and distribute the aid which it was to offer the army. My progress in this duty was slow, for two reasons: 1st. The difficulty of getting suitable medical assistants; 2d. The small amount of funds at the command of the Commission, and the uncertainty as to the extent to which the public could be relied upon to sustain any scale of operations which might be adopted. The latter difficulty prevented a confident application to the former, of the commercial principle of demand and supply. By September, however, the business was fairly well organized, and though, owing still to the want of funds, the staff for relief purposes was not as large as might have been desirable, the skeleton was so far complete that it has since been scarcely at all enlarged; I was receiving regularly, specific and trustworthy professional reports from every column of the army, from



Kansas to the Atlantic, and was thus, for the first time, able to speak with entire confidence of the wants of the hospitals, and of the ability of the Commission to assume before the public the full responsibility of the task assigned it by the President.

On the 16th, accordingly, I advertised this fact to the public; (see enclosure marked J); again, on the 26th; (see enclosure marked K); and again, fully, formally, and carefully on the 1st of October. The form in which I did so was afterwards (October 15th) approved and adopted unanimously by the Commission; (see Minutes, p. 81); a copy of the advertisement referred to is herewith sent to the committee, marked I. It was published extensively in the newspapers, among others, in the Weekly New York Tribune, which is known to circulate largely in the West. An edition of *eighty thousand*, in the form of a circular letter, bearing the endorsement of the President of the United States, and of General Scott, was printed at the Government Printing house, by order of the Secretary of War, which, by a special order of the Postmaster General, was sent free by mail, marked "On Government Business." By reference to enclosure marked P, it will be seen that it was also printed in the form of a poster; and by another special order of the Postmaster General, of which a copy is enclosed, marked R, all postmasters of the United States were required to aid in placing this conspicuously before the people, and in carrying out its objects.

The post offices in California, and Oregon, were served at my special request with copies of this order, and three copies of the advertisement, in the circular form, were also sent to each postmaster in those distant loyal States for distribution. Copies of the letter were also sent by my direction to each editor, clergyman and physician, so far as names and addresses could

be obtained, as well as to many citizens, of California and Oregon.\*

A copy was sent, as far as possible, to every elergyman and family physieian in the loyal States. Ohio was not neglected in this distribution; not only were many thousand sent to that State from Washington, but a speeial edition of the advertisement was printed at Cleveland, in pamphlet form; and an important quotation from it will be found in the first circular of the Cincinnati branch, published some months afterwards.

In the advertisement, thus laboriously distributed, the Commission tenders its serviees for certain specified duties to those who shall ehoose to make use of them. The method by which these duties are to be performed is set forth as distinctly as it well could be in a brief form, as is the necessity for such a method. This is argued on preeisely the same grounds as in the original memorial upon which the President's eommission was founded. The impossibility of an equitable method of distribution, without a method of aseertaining the respeeptive wants of the different parts of the army, is alluded to; the impossibility of such a method, unless it shall be sanctioned by Government, is asserted, and the reason is given why Government should refuse to sane-

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\* I had recommended in the advertisement, of which several thousand copies went to California early in October, that contribution boxes should be placed in hotels and public offices, labelled "*For the Sick and Wounded*," and that whatever money was received in these should be expended for material to be made up into garments, and sent to the Commission's depots for distribution. Whether it was owing to this suggestion or not, I have never been informed, but at the State election of California, contribution boxes so labelled were placed at the polls in several instances: from the collections made, the local military and naval hospitals, which had been neglected in the pressure upon the Government of affairs on the Atlantic side of the country, received needed assistance, and from the surplus I had, in February, the pleasure of acknowledging the first contribution of California to the treasury of the Commission, in the form of a draft for \$1,000.

tion any such method, unless there is incorporated with it a perfect system of accountability for all the agents employed, to the War Department.

The broadest publicity which, with the means at my command, I knew how to secure, having been given to this announcement, the Commission, in the act of formally adopting it, was bound, as I have always considered, as by a written contract with the President and the War Department on the one side, and with the people who should choose to make use of its agency for the conveyance and delivery of goods to the sick and wounded of the army on the other, to distribute such goods only by means of qualified agents, held strictly accountable for their judicious delivery, according to the method intended by the President's commission and recited in the advertisement.

The advertisement concludes with advice how to make use of the agency, which, in brief, is as follows: That in every neighborhood where army-aid societies do not exist they should be formed, and that existing societies should be devoted, for a time, with them to the work of the Commission, and that as fast as packages of needed hospital goods, (of which a descriptive list of those most wanted is given,) can be made up by these societies, or by individuals, they should be sent "*as soon as possible to the most convenient of the dépôts of the Commission.*"

A list of these dépôts concludes the advertisement, as here follows:

"Office of Central Relief Association, New York.

"Care of Messrs. S. & W. Welsh, Philadelphia.

"Care of Dr. S. G. Howe, Boston.

"*Care of Dr. W. H. Mussey, Cincinnati.*

"Care of Dr. C. D. Griswold, Wheeling.

"Care of F. L. Olmsted, Washington."

It will be observed that the word "branch" is not used in this advertisement, and that in accordance with my suggestion of September 5th, before quoted, dépôts for the receipt and storage in reserve of goods are provided for "at various points in the country," and that these are placed in charge of members or associate members of the Commission, as originally proposed in June, in every case but one.

Nothing can be more clear than that all the arrangements here referred to are parts of a well-digested, long-contemplated, and thoroughly-organized system of which the method of distribution of the Sanitary Commission is the key and governing condition. Nothing can well be more clear than that the only just sense in which the words "dépôts of the Commission" in the advertisement can be understood is that of places of collection for goods to be distributed according to the obligations assumed before the public by the Sanitary Commission.

The first "depot" for the receipt of goods to be distributed by the method of the Commission was established in Washington, and was exclusively under my care and control. The second was established at New York, and was placed in charge of the Women's Central Relief Association, of that city, which entered into a formal contract with the Commission, signed by a committee of the association and by the President of the Sanitary Commission. As will be seen by reference to the first numbered section, (of which a copy is enclosed, marked X,) it was distinctly stipulated that the supplies which should be received at the dépôt should "be delivered solely upon requisition from the Sanitary Commission, or to agents authorized by it." The third dépôt was established at Boston, and was placed in charge of a member of the commission. The fourth was established in Cleveland, Ohio, in charge of a member of the Commission; the fifth in Philadelphia, in charge of Messrs. S. & W. Welsh,



merchants, and associate members of the Commission, who, on your application, at my request, agreed to receive and hold all hospital goods which should be sent to their warehouse "subject to the order of the Commission;" the sixth in Wheeling, in charge of an employée of the Commission; the seventh in Cincinnati, in charge of Dr. Mussey, the senior associate member of the Commission in Cincinnati.\*

There was no instrument of contract between the Commission and any of these parties except the Women's Central Association of New York. No distinction however was ever made or presumed in the manner of dealing with those in charge of these dépôts and the Commission. In every case the goods in them were assumed to be and were in like manner as in the first, under "the exclusive control of the Commission." Except in one case, those in charge of them, were members or associate members of the Commission, and their services were gratuitously rendered.

As I anticipated, however, that the work to be done at the dépôts would increase as the result of the advertisement, so far that it would be wrong to ask that all the labor of managing them should continue to be gratuitously performed by individuals, on the same day that I sent the advertisement to the printers, I directed that the Messrs. Welsh, of Philadelphia, should be written to as follows:

"It is possible that the service will involve greater trouble  
"and inconvenience than you may be disposed to be burdened  
"with, in which event you will please not fail to communicate  
"with this office."

Neither in this nor in any other case did I think it right to

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\* See report of Cincinnati branch.

wait, however, for the burden, which I had thus thrown on individuals, to become too heavy to be patiently carried. I, therefore, began at once to take measures to have it divided among all the associate members resident in the towns where the dépôts had been established, sometimes suggesting to them to form an organization among themselves for the purpose; sometimes to induce existing organizations of ladies to relieve individuals or commercial firms upon whom I had ventured to temporarily impose the charge. Dr. Howe was requested to act in the matter in Boston, yourself in Philadelphia, and Dr. Newberry at Cleveland and Cincinnati.

In Boston, the dépôt of the Commission was transferred by Dr. Howe to the care of the New England Women's Auxiliary Association, which is not composed of associate members of the Commission. Goods received therein have ever since continued absolutely at the control of the Commission.

In Philadelphia, the depot of the Commission was transferred by yourself, from the care of two of the associate members of the Commission to that of an organization of all the Philadelphia associates, and goods contributed to it have ever since been, as they were before, at the absolute control of the Commission.

The agencies which took this duty were called branches, this title having, with the approval of the Commission, been assumed previously by the Women's Central Association of New York. The following is a copy of the official announcement of this action:

OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,  
*Treasury Building, Washington,*  
September 16, 1861.

Messrs. J. S. Newberry, M. D., J. H. Douglas, M. D., and J. Foster Jenkins, M. D., are from this date appointed Associate Secretaries of the Sanitary Commission. A. J. Bloor, Esq., is appointed Assistant Secretary in the central office of the Commission in Washington.

The Inspectors of the Commission will, in their respective districts, receive instructions from the Associate Secretaries, and, unless by special orders, report to them.

The distribution of duty for the Associate Secretaries will, for the present, be as follows :

To Dr. Newberry, the department of General Rosecrans, General Frémont, and General Anderson. Post office address, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Newberry will establish hospital dépôts at Wheeling, Virginia, (in charge of C. D. Griswold, M. D.,) at Cincinnati, (in charge of W. H. Mussey, M. D.,) and at Quincy, Illinois.

To Doctor Douglas, the columns under General Banks and General Dix. Post office address, Baltimore, Md. Dr. Douglas will establish hospital dépôts at Baltimore and Frederick city.

To Dr. Jenkins, the columns under the immediate command of General McClellan and General Wool ; with hospital dépôts at Washington and Fortress Monroe. Post office address, Washington, D. C.

Contributions of hospital stores may be made to either of the above dépôts, or to the Women's Central Relief Association, No. 10 Third Ave., Cooper Union, New York.

The Women's Central Relief Association of New York is, by order of the Commission, at its own generous instance, constituted an auxiliary branch of the Sanitary Commission ; retaining, however, full powers to conduct *its own* affairs in all respects independently of the Commission ; neither the Commission nor the Association being in any way responsible for any pecuniary liabilities or obligations, except such as are contracted by itself or its authorized agents.

Benevolent societies north and east of New York, proposing to contribute supplies for the national forces may communicate with the Women's Central Relief Association, which will be in constant correspondence with the various Secretaries of the Commission, and will, from time to time, forward supplies where they may be most needed.

Contributions of money may be made to the Treasurer, George T. Strong, Esq., 64 Wall street, New York.

H. W. BELLOWS, *President.*

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, *General Secretary.*

No change was made in the previously arranged contract, and it has been carried out since to the letter.

Care was taken, however, as will be observed, that the pub-

ic should understand that the Women's Central, in taking this title of "branch of Sanitary Commission," assumed it only with reference to the office of collecting and holding hospital supplies for the Commission's system of distribution to the army, and that even in respect to this the Commission came under not the slightest obligations to it in a pecuniary way. This was even more specifically stated in the letter in which I informed the association of the action of the Commission upon its application. A statement of this action of the Commission, in nearly the words of the above advertisement, was furnished to the associate members of Cincinnati, and proof can be given if required that it was received by them before the organization of their branch.

The Women's Central Association is composed in part of associate members of the Commission, in part of others. It has received, held, cared for, and forwarded goods contributed to the dépôt of the Commission at New York, exactly according to instructions from the Commission or its agents. It has never used these goods in any other wise than as thus instructed. It has, however, always maintained its perfect independence with regard to all duties which its members chose to undertake which were not duties already assumed by the Sanitary Commission. The Commission has never undertaken to provide female nurses for hospitals, for instance; the Women's Central Association has an independent arrangement of a very perfect character for training and registering female nurses, and has supplied some hundreds of these to the government hospitals. It had made arrangements with the public and with Government for this purpose before the Commission was established. It had a considerable fund in its treasury, contributed in part for sustaining these arrangements when it undertook the collecting duty for the Sanitary Commission in New York. I know from its publications that



it has since sustained most extensive correspondence with all parts of the country and with Washington, on this portion of its independent duties, with regard to which it is no more a branch of the Sanitary Commission than it is of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.\*

No communications have passed between the Commission and the Association on this subject, nor with reference to its nurses in Washington or elsewhere. The simple fact that the head of the Sanitary Commission holds a subordinate office in the organization of the Woman's Central, being its Vice President, establishes the purely functional character in which it is a branch of the Sanitary Commission.

The word "branch," then, was first used in connection with this enterprise simply to designate a collecting and forwarding agency for goods to be distributed according to the advertised method of distribution of the Sanitary Commission. That the word has been caught up and carelessly applied in quite another way, I am aware, just as the word "Sanitary Commission" itself has been. Still this is its more common and popular meaning. Thus, in the annual report of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, a list is given of more than five hundred societies of Northern Ohio, all of which are designated "branches," that is to say in one word, contributive societies.

But the words "branch of the Sanitary Commission" had an established meaning, before the words "Cincinnati branch of the Sanitary Commission" had ever been pronounced, and

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\*I believe that the Commission's associates in Chicago, have united to do the same service for the hospitals of the West, that the Woman's Central does in this respect for those of the East. I have learned incidentally, (for no report of this or various other valuable services rendered by these gentlemen to the army outside of the duty assumed by the Commission has been made to this office,) that they have placed nearly one hundred female nurses in the Western hospitals.

that meaning clearly was what I have stated, to wit: a collecting agency of the Sanitary Commission. The branches all grew out of the bud of associate membership, and no duty having been formally given them by the Commission, their true relationship to the Commission can be best inferred from the carefully defined duties assigned by the Commission to its associate members; that is to say, "to obtain for the Commission the means to carry out its object; to inform the public fully (through the press and otherwise) of the existence and design of the Commission; to promote the establishment of auxiliary associations, and so to direct the labors of associations already formed, that they may strengthen and support those of the Commission." Less than this might be the duty of a branch, more than this, its duty to the Sanitary Commission, could not be.

It by no means follows that the same societies or persons can have no other and independent functions. 'I have shown that the Woman's Central had other functions when it undertook the collecting agency of the Commission at New York, and that it continued to perform these independently of the Commission; not responsible to the Commission; not controlled by the Commission any more than the Messrs. Welsh, in Philadelphia, were controlled by the Commission, in whatever other charitable or commercial affairs they were interested, when they assumed the charge of the Commission's dépôt at Philadelphia. The goods which it collects are marked by it "Sanitary Commission." They are controlled by the Sanitary Commission; they go into the common stock, and are called Sanitary Commission goods. But its nurses do not come under the control of the Sanitary Commission; they are not called Sanitary Commission nurses; they are called the Woman's Central nurses. The Woman's Central is then, in part, independent of the Sanitary Commission; in so far as it is, it has never been considered

branch of the Commission. Its treasury, for instance, is not considered any part of the branch of the Sanitary Commission in New York, not being controlled by the Sanitary Commission. It has a dépôt for goods which is not independent of the Sanitary Commission, but is controlled by it and is a true branch of it—a branch of the common stock of the Sanitary Commission.

On the 22d November, Dr. Newberry addressed a circular letter to associate members at the West, of which a copy, marked AA, is enclosed, with a memorandum of Dr. Newberry upon it, showing that a copy was sent by him to Judge Hoadly at Cincinnati, Mr. Blatchford at Chicago, Dr. Smith at Columbus, and Dr. Bell at Louisville. At none of these points did dépôts or collecting agencies of the Commission then exist except at Cincinnati. Within a short time they were established at each of the points designated, the gentlemen to whom the circular was addressed joining with others in forming the organizations which took charge of them, in all cases except one. This was at Columbus, where the dépôt was established by an existing society, and on the 5th of December following, the Commission, then in session at Washington, “On motion of Dr. Newberry, *Resolved*, That the Soldiers’ Aid Society of Columbus, Ohio, be recognized as an association auxiliary to this Commission, on the same terms as the Woman’s Central Association of New York.”

Dr. Newberry, in this circular of the 22d November, directs attention to the “Letter soliciting the co-operation of associate members,” and which defines their duties in the words which I just now quoted. He promises that a copy shall be sent to each with the circular. Thirteen gentlemen of Cincinnati had been elected associate members of the Commission by the Board at its session in Washington, on the 19th of October. Dr. Newberry assures me that at this time he personally sent a copy of

this document to Judge Hoadly and to every one of these gentlemen. It would, indeed, have been a noteworthy accident if he had failed in his promise to do so, and he would probably have been informed of it by those interested. The circular of Dr. Newberry, as will be seen, is little more than an extension and explanation of the Letter to associate members, but points among other things to the special duty required of associate members, at this time, "the formation of auxiliary aid societies, and aiding them to procure dépôt rooms."

The advertisement was issued in October, and there was a dépôt at Cineinnati, which received goods sent to be delivered in accordance with what it promised during the month of November. This is proved by the Report signed "R. W. Burnett," (a member of the Commission, and President of the Cineinnati branch,) addressed to "Dr. John S. Newberry, Western Secretary, Sanitary Commission," of which a copy is enclosed, (marked N,) bearing the hand-writing of Judge Hoadly. It will be observed that it is expressly stated by Mr. Burnett that these goods were sent to the dépôt in consequence of the advertisement of the Commission dated October 1st. (See first to fourth line, page 2.)

By reference to enclosure marked H, evidence will be found that the agencies which, as I have already shown, had been previously established for distributing supplies to the army in the field at the West by the Commission, had been enlarged and extended during the months of September, October, and November. With regard to the military district nearest Cineinnati, a list of hospitals which had been aided in person by the Inspector of the Commission upon that beat during the month of November, is given at page 26 of the same enclosure, in the report of Dr. W. M. Prentice, (who was acting under direct instruction from Dr. Newberry,) as follows:



"Frankfort,	patients	60	furnished	supplies.
"Lexington,	"	220	"	"
"Nicholasville,	"	30	"	"
"Camp Dick Robinson,	"	200	"	"
"Brick Church,	"	100	"	"
"Lancaster,	"	30	"	"
"Crab Orchard,	"	440	"	"
"London,	"	620	"	" in part.
"Mt. Vernon,	"	72	"	"
"Stanford,	"	49	"	"
"Danville,	"	185	"	"
"Baptist Church,	"	42	"	"
"Lebanon,	"	320	"	"
"New Haven,	"	93	"	"
"Louisville,	"	1000	"	" in part."*

The above is reported at the last of November by Dr. Prentice, and appears in a printed document of the Commission, copies of which were sent at the time to Judge Hoadly and his associates at Cincinnati, as I have proof. It will be remembered that the first preliminary meeting for the organization of the Cincinnati branch was held on the evening of November 27th.

What, then, was the probable motive of Dr. Newberry in requesting the associate members elect of the Commission in Cincinnati to give him an opportunity to converse with them at the residence of Dr. Mussey on the night of November 27th? Dr. Newberry is the gentleman styled by the Cincinnati Committee

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\* These hospitals, it will be remembered, come within the category defined at page 17 of this report, and the words "in part" indicate, I presume, that at the points designated, the Inspector found local associations at work, whose aid it was only necessary to supplement in some few particulars of articles which could be procured locally.

the "man-of-all-work" of the Sanitary Commission for the West, a descriptive designation which he need not be ashamed for the present to bear. What work sent him at this time to Cincinnati? Dr. Prentice was just then distributing supplies to certain hospitals which are within the distance of a morning's ride from Cincinnati, while the supplies thus distributed had been collected and sent to him by associate members of the Commission or auxiliary societies, not in Cincinnati, as it must have appeared to Dr. Newberry should have been the case, but by associate members and societies more than five hundred miles away. If these supplies could be collected just as well in the adjoining rich and populous loyal agricultural communities of southern Ohio, and in the rich and enterprising loyal commercial community of the Queen City of the West, it would plainly be better.

By reference to the enclosure marked II, at page 2, it will be seen that Dr. Newberry had recently added two medical inspectors to his force, and had sent them into Kentucky. By reference to the enclosure marked I, page 3, it will be seen that on the 22d of November, five days before the first meeting of the Cincinnati associates, Dr. Newberry had, in the circular letter previously cited, stated to several persons, among others to Judge Hoadly, of Cincinnati, that the agents employed by the Commission at the West "are paid from funds all of which, up to the present time, have been contributed in Eastern cities," and that these funds were, at the moment, "nearly exhausted." In the scheme of the Sanitary Commission, as I have proved, the duty of its associate members had, beforetime, been to aid in the formation of auxiliary societies; to collect extra-governmental hospital supplies and to provide it with funds; it was for this purpose that associate members were first appointed; there is no documentary evidence that any other duty had ever been asked

of them, in behalf of the Commission, or that any has since been, (except that of *nominating* inspectors of recruiting stations,) nor that authority to invite them to undertake any other duty has at any time been given to Dr. Newberry, or any one else. I distinctly assert that no authority or consent has in any manner been given by this office, intentionally or to my knowledge, at any time, for placing with branches or associates any other duty of the Commission.

There had been goods, on the first of December, 1861, held in trust by Dr. W. H. Mussey, to be distributed by an organized method or system already in operation, and known by those who delivered the goods to him as that of the Sanitary Commission. Dr. Mussey had also held the duty of receiving goods for this purpose, in behalf of the Sanitary Commission, under a continuous obligation, assumed before the people of Southern Ohio, with great pains-taking, by the Sanitary Commission. When Mr. Burnett, a member of the Sanitary Commission, and certain other persons, who had been solicited to assume the duty of associate members, under the Sanitary Commission, were asked a few days afterwards, to receive those goods from the hands of Dr. Mussey, it is fair to presume that they were asked to assume the obligations of Dr. Mussey, unless the contrary is very clearly shown; that is to say, *they were asked to receive those goods in trust, under a stipulation that they should be distributed by the method of distribution previously existing of the Sanitary Commission.*

I have shown that at the time the advertisement of October was issued, I had it in mind to relieve individuals who were serving gratuitously of the labor of taking care of the dépôts of the Commission, before this should become a very heavy task, by inducing associate members coming together in an organization, either of themselves alone, or of themselves in connection

with others, to assume the duty, and in either case the term "branch," following the precedent established at its own suggestion by the Woman's Central Association of New York, was applied indifferently with the special title of the organization, to indicate such an agency. I have stated that this was gradually accomplished at the East, and that Dr. Newberry was advised to see it accomplished at the West; that, at this moment, thirteen gentlemen were elected associate members at Cincinnati; that they were notified by Dr. Newberry of their appointment, and that a few days afterwards, at his suggestion, they organized under the title of the Cincinnati *branch* of the Sanitary Commission. I have shown that, in previous instances, the word branch had been publicly used and accepted to indicate a certain relationship to the Commission, which relationship was one simply of collection. I have shown that the organization called the branch at Cincinnati, and which consisted of a collection of associate members, assumed a charge which had been previously held by a single associate member; that this charge, when held by him, was one simply of collection; and that a precisely similar transfer had been made at Philadelphia, and had not been attended by any inoculation of the duty of distribution to the army in the field upon this charge. I have shown that the duty of associate members, in relation to the Commission, had been defined to be merely that of collection and the facilitating of collection through publications and organizations for the purpose. I have shown that, at the very moment of the organization of the Cincinnati branch, the established distributing agency of the Commission was employed within half a day's ride of the city of Cincinnati in distributing supplies to the army in the field; that this agency was supported by funds, every dollar of which had been collected a thousand miles away from Cincinnati, which funds were now nearly exhausted, and that Dr. Newberry



informed the associate members of this fact, a few days before the organization of the branch, by a written circular letter. I have also shown that the supplies which were then being distributed almost in the neighborhood of Cincinnati by the agency of the Commission, were brought from a long way off, and of course at a cost which it was desirable to avoid. Under all these circumstances, does it appear possible that Dr. Newberry should have said nothing, whatever, of the Commission as a distributing agency; that he should have taken this opportunity to inaugurate a new feature in the arrangements of the Commission, by giving the Cincinnati associates the peculiar duty of going into the field to distribute goods collected at the branch dépôt of the Commission already established and in operation at Cincinnati, this being not merely unprecedented, but in violation of an undertaking publicly assumed in advance by the Commission?

Against all this inherent improbability and against the distinct recollection of Dr. Newberry himself,\* there stands merely the absence of recollection of Judge Hoady and his associates, and the fact that they have recently been acting in a manner quite at variance with the obligations, which in this case, it might have been understood they had assumed and which it seems almost incredible that, honorable men as they are known to be, they should have forgotten.

Let us ask, then, how trustworthy is their memory of what they were then unquestionably informed about?

Enclosed, marked BB, is a copy of a letter addressed espe-

\* Dr. Newberry says that so markedly plain was his statement before the organizing meeting of the purely collecting function of the proposed branch, that one of the members present addressed him in the meeting thus: "I don't see, then, but that all the Commission wants of us is simply to get all the money and the goods we can for it." "In one word," replied Dr. Newberry, "that is all."

cially to the chairman of the committee himself, which was sent by Dr. Newberry, (accompanying the above-recited circular letter to western associate members of the Commission, and the general letter defining the duties solicited of associate members by the Commission,) as appears by the memorandum, upon the copy, of Dr. Newberry. In this letter Dr. Newberry, after stating what, in particular, is wanted of the associate members of the Commission in Cincinnati, suggesting, for instance, the selection of some one to immediately relieve Dr. Mussey of the labor of taking care of the Commission's depot, closes with these words: "We have sent about 100 boxes hospital stores into Kentucky within the last two weeks."

Could Judge Hoadly have been unaware that these goods were sent into Kentucky for distribution by the agents of the Commission? Could he have remained in ignorance of this, when shortly afterwards he received the printed report of Dr. Prentice's distributions at Lexington, Frankfort, Dick Robinson, and the rest of the camps over there?

On the 9th<sup>\*</sup> of December, twelve days after the first meeting of the Cincinnati associates, I presented my report as the officer charged with "the chief executive duties of the Commission" to the Secretary of War. From portions of this report referring to the particular duty of the Commission now under consideration, I copy the following passages:

"The Commission has for some months past held itself  
 "ready to receive and to distribute where most required  
 "among the soldiers of every portion of the army all supplies, especially of hospital stores, which might be forwarded to its dépôts by the humane and charitable societies  
 "that are working for the army in every northern city, town,

“and village. These supplies have been forwarded to it in  
“large quantity.

“The Quartermaster General having advertised for blankets from the private stocks of citizens, and having become  
“acquainted with the method of action adopted by the Commission, has also directed that all blankets which shall be  
“obtained by his agents shall be placed in the stores of the  
“Commission for gratuitous distribution, where found to be  
“needed by the sick.

“SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION.—It is the duty of the Commission to prevent, as far as possible, the sacrifice of human  
“life to matters of form and considerations of accuracy of  
“accounts. Its *method of distribution* is as thorough and  
“exact as can be maintained consistently with this duty.

“This department of its business has so greatly increased  
“of late that it has been difficult to enlarge its clerical organization with corresponding rapidity. Vouchers signed by  
“the surgeon, or his assistant, of every regiment or hospital,  
“aided, and countersigned by an Inspector of the Commission,  
“who has ascertained that the articles supplied are actually  
“needed, have been obtained, however, for every dollar’s  
“worth issued at all the dépôts directly controlled by the  
“Commission.

“Caution is exercised in the distribution of the gifts of  
“the people, chiefly in the following particulars:

“1. That they should be as fairly divided as is practicable  
“—those most needy being most liberally dealt with.

“2. That no officer shall be unnecessarily relieved from  
“an existing responsibility to secure for all dependent on him  
“all the supplies which it is his right and duty to demand  
“directly of Government.

“The Commission has, by circulars and advertisements, given the widest publicity to the need of hospital supplies at all its dépôts, specifying particularly the nature, dimensions, form, &c., of the articles especially needed.

“DEPOTS OF THE COMMISSION.—The principal dépôts of stores for the Commission are in New York, (*under charge of the ‘Woman’s Central Relief Association of New York,’*) at Boston, at Providence, R. I., at Philadelphia, at Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio, at Wheeling, Va., at Louisville, at Chicago, at Cairo, at St. Louis, and at Washington.”

This report was laid by the Secretary of War before Congress; it was, in considerable part, republished in the newspapers, among others in the New York Times, World, and Herald, also in the London Times, and other foreign journals; ten thousand copies of it were printed and circulated by the Commission, a thousand or more being sent into Ohio. One hundred copies were sent to Judge Hoadly, in person, and I have the Expressman’s receipt for them.

In addition to what I have quoted, this report states, with reference to the plan of making distributions by the Commission, that (previous to November 15th, 1861,) *fifty-one thousand* articles of hospital clothing, besides several tons of hospital diet, had been issued from the Cleveland dépôt of the Commission *to the army in the West*; that 4,814 articles of bedding and clothing had been distributed from the Wheeling dépôt; and that the value of the supplies which had been issued *“during the month of November, 1861, by agents of the Commission, amounted, at a very moderate estimate, to the sum of forty thousand dollars.”*

At this time there was not a “western branch” in ex-



istence, and yet, Judge Hoadly's recollection of all this is so much at fault, that on the 5th of November, 1862, he wrote as follows: "It is idle to consume ink and paper to prove what you know, viz: that up to this time the western branches have, with your approval, undertaken the work of supply to the army, and that you have never even attempted to provide means for that work on your part. I do not know, of course, what you have proposed, but if you ever thought or talked of any plan other than the one adopted in practice, [assuming this to be by distribution through the western branches,] I never heard of it. Query: would he be ungenerous who should intimate that the whole plan of *making distributions in the West* by the U. S. Sanitary Commission is an after thought, the result of the generosity of California?"

This statement of the chairman of the Cincinnati committee enables us to measure very exactly the value of the testimony of the committee upon the question, whether the branch at Cincinnati was formed at the request of the Sanitary Commission, through Dr. Newberry, for purposes of independent distribution of the stores to be collected at the dépôt of the Sanitary Commission, in Cincinnati, as now supposed by the committee, or not; for this all turns upon the trustworthiness of their supposed recollection that Dr. Newberry addressed them in a way very different from that in which he had a few days before written to them, and in a manner wholly inconsistent with all his instructions, and with the established and published plans and duties of the Commission.

The question, whether "he would be ungenerous who should intimate that the whole plan of making distributions

in the West, by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, is an after thought, the result of the generosity of California," cannot be regarded as a mere error of memory; but, as I am informed, that this idea has been strongly impressed upon other persons besides the committee, I will undertake, from the materials I can readily lay my hands upon in the office, to show that the "plan of distribution," which, as I have already proved, was established and working throughout the West before, and up to the time when, the Cincinnati Branch was organized, was supposed, by those responsible for it, to be in continuous operation up to the day the first intelligence of the first of the recent California donations reached them; the only changes made in the "plan" having been for its enlargement and improvement, according as the moneyed means of the Commission warranted.

The Cincinnati branch went into operation *December, 1861*. I to-day opened, for the first time, the London Medical Critic and Physiological Journal, for October. At page 626 I came upon the following passage, reviewing the work of the Sanitary Commission to the close of that year, from information obtained from the newspapers and some few publications of the Commission, found, probably, at the Hunterian museum:

"It had filled up several serious blanks in the provision for wounded and sick, which had arisen from the inaptitude of the medical bureau, hampered by its regulations, adapted only to the small force of the regular army; *it had become the recognized agency of the bulk of that private bounty which was lavished by the different States upon the forces*; and it had effected many ameliorations in the Sanitary condition of the volunteers."

By reference to the enclosed advertisement, dated *January 1st, 1862*, marked T, it will be seen that on that day the

Commission announced to the public that it was "dispensing supplies to the wounded and suffering to the value of more than a thousand dollars each day;" and that it employed "more than forty hard-working men in the duty, of whom fifteen were skilful physicians constantly serving as Inspectors of camps and hospitals." By reference to the enclosed advertisement marked S, issued under instructions from the Central Office, in *February*, 1862, it will be seen that the Commission was still calling on the public for general hospital supplies to be sent to its dépôts. By reference to the enclosure marked V, it will be seen that in *March* renewed and increased contributions of hospital supplies were called for, and that the system of distribution which had been advertised in October was again recommended to the public; it will be seen also that the list of receiving dépôts had been enlarged during the winter; it being mentioned that the Commission had recently established additional "*distributing dépôts* at Port Royal, Key West, Ship Island, *Nashville*," etc.

By reference to the *Minutes*, page 123, it will be seen that from *March* 4th to *March* 8th the Sanitary Commission was in session at Washington, and that its meetings were attended by Messrs. Baker, Shoenberger, Anderson, and Baldwin, associate members, of the Cincinnati branch. Reports were read giving account of the recent operation of the relief system of the Commission by several of its western officers, as follows: general report by Dr. Newberry as to the Mississippi valley; by Dr. Douglas, as to Missouri; Dr. Warriner, as to Missouri; Dr. Aigner, as to Southern Missouri, and Illinois, and Western Kentucky; Dr. Reed, as to Kentucky; Dr. Griswold, as to Western Virginia; Dr. Blake, as to Louisiana. Reports from other points on the coast, and from the army of the Potomac, were also read, and a

complete system for the equitable distribution of hospital supplies was shown to be in equally efficient operation throughout every column of the army. Among other evidences of an intention to continue the system, at this time evinced by the Commission, was the discussion of a motion "for the appointment of a committee to make an appeal to the clergy of the loyal States for collections in their respective churches for the aid and relief of the volunteer army through the Sanitary Commission." This discussion elicited the fact that one member, and but one member, of the Commission had any doubt as to the duty of the Commission to continue the system of distribution which it had undertaken for the people. This was Dr. Howe, whose views had been previously published. His objections were against all volunteer relief, as likely to exert an influence unfavorable to a proper accountability on the part of the medical officers of Government, and a full statement was made by Dr. Newberry and myself of the system of distribution which we had adopted, for the purpose of satisfying the Commission that proper precautions had been taken to guard against this evil. Dr. Howe has since approved of and given his aid to the system. It was considered inexpedient to pass the motion, because it was deemed better that the churches should, in many cases, make contributions of hospital clothing to the dépôts of the Commission, and use their money for the purchase of material to be made up for this purpose, in accordance with the policy of the advertisement of October.

By reference to enclosure, marked C C, "it will be seen that on the 16th of *April*, an advertisement was issued from the Central office, which contained the following exhibit of the general relief system of the Commission :

"The Commission has, at this moment, special professional



agents attending respectively *the Mississippi fleet, the army at Pittsburg Landing, General Mitchel's division*, [then in Northern Alabama,] Banks' column, Dix's column, McDowell's column, Wadsworth's division, at General McClellan's headquarters, at Newbern, at Fernandina, and at Ship Island, *to each of whom supplies are shipped as often as it is advised they should be.*"

It was at the same time urged, as will be seen, that "in no other way, and through no organization less *general and comprehensive* in its scope" than that thus exhibited, could the sick and wounded of the army be as well aided by the public. The above was published in the newspapers as well as in circular form, and was especially addressed to the Commission's "associates."

On the 19th of *April*, 1862, an elaborate article appeared in the New York World newspaper, the following extracts from which will show that the Commission's "method of distribution," as first fully presented to the public in October, was still understood to be in full operation East, West, and South:

"There was great danger at the beginning of the war that the gifts of the patriotic and benevolent, intended for the sick and suffering volunteers, which would fail to reach their destination entirely, or be so distributed as to leave very many unsupplied, while others had a superabundance. \* \* \* One of the good works done by the Sanitary Commission has been the systematizing of this spontaneous benevolence, so that all could work for the good cause, and when sending the products of their patriotic endeavors and their gifts to some depot, be assured that *where there was suffering there would their gifts go*, without reference to the State badge of the regiment or the hospital.

"*In this way the Commission has labored everywhere*, and has dépôts of hospital stores at St. Louis, *Cincinnati*, Chicago, Cleveland, Wheeling, Washington, Alexandria, Fortress Monroe, Newbern, Hilton Head, Ship Island, New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The expenses of storage are usually borne by Government, or by the owner of the premises

used. Having these dépôts selected with reference to bases of military operations, the Commission is not only enabled to anticipate and relieve the suffering in battle and hospital anywhere throughout the United States, but to furnish centers about which local benevolence and patriotism may organize themselves."

On the 1st of *May*, the following advertisement was issued:

"The Sanitary Commission asks contributions for the aid and relief of the volunteer army. There will in all probability soon be many wounded men to provide for, and our troops on the southern coast are endangered by the unhealthy season now approaching. There is therefore special need of public liberality on their behalf, at least until the measures now pending in Congress to strengthen the Medical Department of the army shall be perfected. Agencies and dépôts of hospital stores, &c., are maintained at heavy expense in connection with every portion of the army. Contributions may be addressed to

GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer,*  
No. 68 Wall street, New York."

*May* 7th, the Treasurer made his usual monthly public acknowledgment of cash contributions received, adding at the close this sentence:

"Further contributions for the objects of the Commission, and especially for floating hospitals at the West and in the waters of Virginia, will be received by

GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer,*  
No. 68 Wall street, New York."

*May* 23d, the "New York Agency of the Sanitary Commission" advertised as follows:

"The following articles of hospital clothing and supplies are urgently wanted by the Commission, and may be sent to the 'Women's Central Association of Relief,' No 10 Cooper's Institute. \* \* \* \* \*

"The prodigious demand of the last month, during which more than a hundred thousand articles of clothing (besides other supplies) have been issued by the Commission to the

sick and wounded in the Army of the Potomac alone, (and probably a much larger amount to the Western and other Departments,) has reduced our stock, and although 686 cases have been received at the Washington dépôt since April 23, the demand is much greater than the supply.”\*

It was in *May*, also, if I mistake not, that the letter from an Ohio associate member of the Commission, from which I make the following extracts, was published in the *Columbus Journal*:

“Dr. PRENTICE, of Cleveland, Medical Inspector, appointed by the United States Sanitary Commission, has now three large tents near the Purveyor’s office, and is distributing sanitary goods without regard to States. Any needy regimental hospitals can be supplied. Many Aid Societies complain that their goods are not distributed to the immediate friends from the points from which they are sent. It is impossible for him to do so, and the rule of the Commission forbids it. Some local institutions have sent goods here and carried them back, and others have been thrown upon the shore with none to care for them. Dr. PRENTICE is indefatigable in his labors to correctly distribute anything sent to him, to examine personally the needs of the regimental hospitals, and to distribute only to the surgeons or on their requisitions. Goods sent to Dr. PRENTICE, United States Sanitary Commission, care United States Purveyor, Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee, or to the Commission at Cleveland, Columbus or Cincinnati, will be properly cared for. Had it not been *for the sanitary system* at Pittsburgh Landing, many a brave man would have been beyond saving.” \* \* \*

“To the depot at Pittsburgh Landing I have since sent a large amount of stores, and shall to-morrow start with over two hundred boxes more, and with nearly a steamer load of potatoès, vegetables, fruits, stimulants, ice, &c., &c., all furnished by the liberality of the Soldier’s Aid Society of Northern Ohio.”

#### F. C. SESSIONS.

By reference to the enclosure, marked W, it will be seen

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\* The last three advertisements quoted, may be found in the New York Tribune, daily, of the dates named.



that the circular of March was re-issued in *June*, with the following additions :

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1st, 1862.

“ While the general objects of the Commission remain the same as at the date of the foregoing circular, there is now added the claim put forth by our soldiers engaged in active operations in the field, who have suffered in battle, or from the more destructive influence of an unfriendly climate.

“ Besides furnishing very large supplies of hospital bedding and clothing, (more than 100,000 articles having been issued during May from the Washington depot alone,) the Commission has felt itself called upon to supply additional comforts for the sick and wounded, which involve an expenditure for the past month of not less than \$22,000.\*

“ Our armies on the Peninsula, in North Carolina, throughout General Hunter’s Department, and at New Orleans and vicinity, are all sharing the attention and good offices of the Commission, while the wants of our large army near Corinth, Mississippi, are in like manner freely supplied by our Western Secretaries and their generous co-laborers.”

*July* 15th the Soldier’s Aid Society of Northern Ohio issued a circular, (see copy enclosed marked D D,) the following sentence from which will show that its managers had not yet been informed of any discontinuance of the Commission’s “method of distribution:”

“The United States Sanitary Commission is laboring most diligently to establish dépôts for relief in every quarter where suffering can be found, and to prevent as far as possible the waste and loss of supplies, which are to a degree unavoidable, and we doubt not in the future our stores will be still more widely disseminated.”

In the same document appears a letter from the Western Secretary of the Sanitary Commission, the statements of which

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\*Note.—Not one cent of this expenditure was made through the Cincinnati, Philadelphia, or any other branch.



are endorsed by the managers of the society from personal knowledge, some of their number having visited the seat of war in Tennessee for the purpose. The following passages are taken from it:

"2d. The system of distribution of sanitary stores, which has been introduced into my department, is the result of much thought and effort, and, so far as adopted, seems to render all great abuses impossible.

"My aim and practice have been to establish at all important head-quarters of the army, near the office of the medical purveyor, a *dépôt* of sanitary stores, to which the surgeons of regiments or hospitals, when coming for supplies, may have recourse for such things as government cannot furnish. These *dépôts*, under the care of competent persons, are managed with as much care and system as that of the medical purveyor, a record being kept and receipts taken for all articles issued. They are also *under the general supervision of the Inspectors*, who are constantly employed in visiting the camps and hospitals in the vicinity, drawing on the *dépôt* for the supply of all real wants. Nor does the care of the Inspector over your bounty end here. On his rounds of inspection he repeatedly visits every hospital, and sees with his own eyes that his gifts are properly used, and while he is instructed to err, if at all, on the side of liberality, he is also enjoined to keep careful watch that the stores he dispenses are not misused.

"Where this system has not been adopted, and stores are hurriedly distributed by inexperienced persons, making but a single visit to a locality—a course still pursued by some aid societies and sanitary associations—errors and abuses are liable, even sure, to occur. But your stores have not been, and will not be, thus distributed, so long as they are entrusted to the care of the agents of the U. S. Sanitary Commission."

"Yours, very respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Sec'y Western Department."*

On the 9th of *August*, the following statement appeared in the newspapers of Buffalo, N. Y.:

"The committee of twenty, appointed by the citizens of Buffalo to provide for the sick and wounded of the regiments

organized in or sent from Buffalo, have adopted the following report and ordered it to be published. [The committee state that they have been in conference with the Sanitary Commission, and had been advised that:]

“The great extent of territory occupied by the army, and the distribution of our soldiers at such various and remote points, rendered it impossible to supply specific assistance to any particular regiment. *The arrangements of the Commission were so extensive and complete, that any means placed in its hands would be sure to reach all suffering soldiers, without reference to their particular locality.*”

“The report not meeting the original moving element of the organization, somewhat paralyzed the operations of the committee, and render it necessary to investigate more thoroughly the subject, and information was sought from other sources.”

The committee at length deliberately concluded that the purpose of their organization had been a wasteful and unworthy one; that even if it were not so, it would be impracticable to follow the Buffalo regiments with any method of relief, which would reach them when relief was most needed, unless it were equally comprehensive, elaborate, and carefully systematized with that of the Sanitary Commission, and that the citizens of Buffalo would not only best serve the sick and wounded of their own regiments, but the national cause and their own self-respect, by dividing their relief fund between the treasury of the Sanitary Commission and the Soldiers' Aid Society of Western New York, for the purchase of material for its members to work up.

The recommendations of the committee were adopted by the citizens of Buffalo, and the local society has since sent a special committee to more thoroughly examine the affairs of the Commission. This committee made a searching investigation of the accounts of the Commission, and of all its methods of business, and as the result reported the most complete and hearty expression of approval of all they found which the

work of the Commission has ever received. (See enclosed, marked E E.) The contributions of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Western New York have since been sent exclusively to the Commission's depots at New York, Washington, or Louisville, according to the varying demand of the Eastern, Western, and Southern armies. The report of the first committee was made about one month before the Commission was advised of the recent California donations to its treasury; the investigation of the second committee was in progress on the very day that the first advices of these donations were received, and its chairman, in returning to Buffalo from Washington, spent an evening in conversation with Judge Hoadly and two other associate members of the Commission from Cincinnati by invitation of the President of the Sanitary Commission, in his library, in New York.

By reference to the *Minutes*, it will be seen that from *September* 16th to September 20th the Commission was in session in Washington. The following are extracts from the minutes of proceedings on the 18th:

“The Surgeon General and the Hon. George Hoadly were present.”

“The Secretary reported that since the commencement of active operations in Maryland, and previous to yesterday, five wagons and one railroad car, loaded with supplies, had been sent by the Commission to and beyond Frederick; that six Surgeons and Inspectors of the Commission, with a car load of supplies, were sent on yesterday afternoon; that three wagons left Washington for the front of the army on the Upper Potomac at 12 o'clock last night, with a party of eight, in charge of Drs. Agnew and Harris; that a train of army wagons are now loading with supplies to be despatched immediately for the battle-field, also by way of Frederick; that Dr. Crane had been previously stationed at Chambersburg or Hagerstown, with large discretionary powers to act for the Commission; and that despatches had been sent to Philadelphia, ordering the purchase of large supplies at that point; that



these, with stores forwarded from the North, would be forwarded to Hagerstown in charge of special agents."

"A report was presented from Mr. Caleb Cope, treasurer of the Philadelphia associates, showing a balance now in the treasury of fourteen thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars and fifty-two cents, and an aggregate of receipts by him as such treasurer amounting to thirty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars and thirty-eight cents."

"Dr. Howe presented a report of receipts and expenditures of Boston Agency of the Sanitary Commission since March 1, 1862, showing a balance to its credit of \$4,444."

On the next day :

"Mr. Olmsted presented a report on the general operations of the Commission since the last meeting."

"Dr. Newberry presented a special report of the operations of the Western branch of the Commission's [executive force,] in the Valley of the Mississippi since March last."

(It does not appear of record that Judge Hoadly was present at this time. He had been invited to be.)

The battle of Antietam was in progress, and during the session several wagon trains, one of them accompanied by a member of the Commission, departed for the battle-field from before the door of the building in which the session was held. More than 30,000 articles of clothing, with several tons of articles of nourishment, stimulants, &c., were sent during the week from the Washington depot for distribution to the wounded by the method of the Commission.

The Commission adjourned on the 20th, and on the 21st, intelligence of the first of the recent donations of California was first received.

*On the twentieth*, however, I had had printed a brief exposition of the "national system of distribution," adopted by the Sanitary Commission, for "all divisions of the army," those "on the Mississippi and the Western frontier," as well as those "on the Southern coast," being particularized.



Copies of this paper were placed on the table of the Commission, and the attention of Judge Skinner, of Chicago, I remember, was particularly called to it by myself, while it was in proof, and it received his endorsement. I cannot say that a copy was given to Judge Hoadly, but copies were sent to newspapers the same day, and it will be found in the New York evening papers of the 22d, the morning papers of that date having first published the telegraphic dispatch from San Francisco, announcing the donations from California. Subsequently to its general publication, which was very prominent in the New York daily papers, Judge Hoadly met the President and New York members of the Commission with the President of the Chicago branch, and spent an evening with them discussing the affairs of the Commission, and the next day the President wrote me that the advertisement was satisfactory.

It appeared in the newspapers of Cincinnati the following week. It was published for one month, daily, in the Cincinnati Gazette, as follows:

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#### “FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

“Under an order from the President of the United States, a national system has been established by the Sanitary Commission for the safe transmission and judicious distribution of articles contributed by the people for the sick and wounded of the Army and Navy. The system, after being well tried, has been formally approved and recommended by the President, the General-in-Chief, and the Surgeon General. The security it offers against misappropriation is practically perfect, until the contributions are delivered in the hospitals, where they necessarily pass from the control of the Commission. Of more than a million articles sent through one of the largest of its channels of supply, it has been ascertained that not one hundred have miscarried or been dishonestly used. Discreet

and trustworthy agents are constantly employed in visiting all divisions of the army, including those on the Southern coast, the Mississippi, and the Western frontier, to observe their wants; to direct supplies where they are most needed, and to secure, as far as practicable, their honest use. The Commission does not undertake to deliver articles to individuals, and declines to receive contributions with any restriction as to their destination within the limits of the force employed in the service of the Nation, it being one of its secondary objects to strengthen the sentiment of National unity wherever it can come in antagonism with State or local pride. The distribution of hospital supplies is but a branch of the work of the Commission. It employs the best professional talent which can be obtained in the country to aid its larger purpose—to do all that is possible for the health and vigor of our fighting men, to lighten their burdens, and to sustain their spirits under the privations and hardships which are an essential part of successful warfare. For this purpose contributions to its treasury are solicited. They may be directed to the Treasurer, G. T. STRONG, esq., No. 68 Wall st., New York.

“Commissioners under appointment from the President of the United States: The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D.; Prof. A. D. Bache, LL. D.; George W. Cullum, U. S. A.; Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A.; Robert C. Wood, M. D., U. S. A.; William H. Van Buren, M. D.; Wolcott Gibbs, M. D.; Samuel G. Howe, M. D.; Cornelius R. Agnew, M. D.; Elisha Harris, M. D.; J. S. Newberry, M. D.; George T. Strong; Horace Binney, jr.; the Right Rev. Thos. M. Clark, D. D.; the Hon. Joseph Holt; R. W. Burnett; the Hon. Mark Skinner; Frederick Law Olmsted.

*“Contributions of suitable supplies for the sick and wounded will be received at the Rooms of the Sanitary Commission, corner of Sixth and Vine streets, CINCINNATI, OHIO.”*

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On the day that the first telegraphic dispatch was sent from San Francisco to the Sanitary Commission, the Sanitary Commission had eight of its regular “paid agents” constantly and systematically employed in making distributions of hospital supplies to the army in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

In no single month of the last year have less than one thousand cases of hospital goods been distributed, exclusively by the hands of these agents to the sick and wounded of the army within those States.

I have quoted the passage from Judge Hoadly's letter, and have shown how completely mistaken it was, because it suggests the only explanation of which I can conceive for the character of the Report of November 12th of the committee of which he was chairman. Strangely uninformed, or forgetful, as the other members of this committee equally with Judge Hoadly must have been of the real facts of the case, they were probably imposed upon by the statements of some interested persons, who, to induce the consummation of some previously conceived purpose, had contrived a theory of their own to account for their unwillingness to divide the trust of California with their "associates," and had made facts after a very common fashion, to fit their theory.

The following is a fair indication of the allegations of the report in which this is apparent:

"The U. S. Sanitary Commission had not when we organized, nor have they now, any adequate means at their command for doing properly the work of distribution. During the last year they have had in service a number of paid agents, viz: A western secretary and a few inspectors."

Judge Hoadly, of course, received the misinformation thus conveyed, as a statement of truth: The truth is this, however: The Sanitary Commission has had, on an average, at least fifty "paid agents," devoting their whole time to its service during the whole of the past year. At the time this was written its paid agents numbered exactly one hundred, according to the statements presented to the Commission at its November session.



"In fact, if consolidation is to be the policy, and but a single agency is to undertake the work of distribution, the Western Sanitary Commission is, in our opinion, better prepared to discharge the duty than the Sanitary Commission—just to the extent that voluntary service exceeds in value hired labor."

I am confident that the Sanitary Commission has, and has always had, on an average, ten times as many volunteer laborers in its service as the Western Sanitary Commission; that its system of distribution reaches daily ten hospitals for every one reached by that of the Western Sanitary Commission, and that it daily gives aid and comfort to ten sick and wounded soldiers where the Western Sanitary Commission touches one. Moreover, the sick and wounded who are ordinarily reached by the Sanitary Commission are by far the most in peril of life for want of aid of the character bestowed.\*

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\* The Western Sanitary Commission was constituted "with a view to the health and comfort of the Volunteer Troops in and near the City of St. Louis," while the relief organization of the Sanitary Commission was yet incomplete. The Cincinnati Committee are mistaken in their statement that the Western Sanitary Commission is, in the same sense with the Sanitary Commission, "recognized by the authorities." The Western Sanitary Commission was recognized for a local purpose early in September, 1861, by the General commanding the Department, whose Headquarters were then at St. Louis, in an order from which the above quotation is taken, and for which he was reproved, in an order of the Secretary of War, dated October 2d, 1861, in the following words: "Such a step, by dividing the authority, can only embarrass the general plan adopted by the Department. I would therefore request you to rescind the order creating the said Board, or, that you would direct the said Commission at St. Louis to work under the instructions of the Sanitary Board here." When the main body of the Army of the West withdrew from Missouri to operate on the base of the Ohio, just before the movements which resulted in the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, the St. Louis Society was left in sole charge of the duty of relief for the hospitals at St. Louis and vicinity, and for the field hospitals of the troops operating from that base, the State of Missouri being considered as a loyal State, and within the category of the intermediate ground described at page 17 of this report, and the Commission has since refrained from working within the selected field of the Society at St. Louis, from a desire to avoid the danger of conflicting action between its agents and a body of men whose motives are believed to be the same with its own and who command its respect. The Commission has relief agents in Arkansas



There are not less than twenty associations, and so-called "commissions" and "branches" operating independently of the Commission, which have engaged in the work of relief to the sick and wounded within the region of warlike operations. I believe that any honest, intelligent man, who will take the trouble to investigate the matter, may satisfy himself that the Sanitary Commission has distributed four times as much of needed hospital supplies; has mitigated ten times as much suffering, and has saved ten times as many lives as all of these together.

I am, in this case, giving opinions and not proofs, but my character for sound judgment is worth something, and my convictions have been formed with as much general knowledge of the subject, probably, as is possessed by the Cincinnati committee, and certainly with a much better knowledge of the work of the Sanitary Commission than they have shown. They are considerate convictions, which Judge Hoadly's on this subject certainly are not. Of the precipitancy with which he has been ready to express very ill-considered impressions, the following circumstance affords some evidence:

In his letter to the President of the Sanitary Commission from which I have before quoted, (dated November 5th,) and which constitutes a part of the personal correspondence between Dr. Bellows and Judge Hoadly, from which quotation is made in the Cincinnati Committee's report, Judge Hoadly opens with an expression of surprise at "the erroneous opin-

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and Kansas. The Western Sanitary Commission at St. Louis has recently employed the system of the Sanitary Commission for distribution of goods to the Army in Tennessee and Mississippi. The President of the St. Louis Commission is an associate member of the Sanitary Commission, and while confined, as it mainly has been, except in emergencies, in its operations, to Missouri, it performs precisely and very admirably the duty which is elsewhere performed in loyal communities by the regular "branches" of the Commission.

ions'' evinced by Dr. Bellows in a letter to which this is a reply. He then takes up these erroneous opinions one by one, thus:

"I. It is not true that our body has ever styled itself, or "permitted itself to be called, 'The Cincinnati Sanitary Commission.' Our title is, 'Cincinnati Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.' I speak whereof I know; for I have written every circular our Commission has addressed to the public from the beginning. I enclose the last of these, issued in August. \* \* \* Our first circular I also enclose."

Judge Hoadly encloses not only the two, but a third circular of the Cincinnati branch, on which he writes: "*Please read all of this;*" and the President having sent them to this office, they are herewith sent to the committee. On the fourth page of the August circular, and on the fifth page of the other two, will be found the designation in large block-letter capitals, as distinct as type can make it:

### CINCINNATI SANITARY COMMISSION.

I enclose the leading article of a Cincinnati paper, marked W, which bears abundant internal evidence of having proceeded from a member or an employee of the Cincinnati branch, who had been upon a visit to the hospitals at Perryville, Kentucky, after the late battle there, and throughout which the term "*The Sanitary Commission*" is used as the proper designation of the Cincinnati branch, and this in connection with most serious charges against a Medical Director of the U. S. army; charges of a character such as the Sanitary Commission itself has never made against any surgeon without being able to procure his dismissal in disgrace from the service; but

which, according to the testimony of the agents of the real Sanitary Commission, are pure libels on a faithful officer of the Government.

How carefully I have felt to be my duty to guard against any such wrong being committed for which "the Sanitary Commission" could be justly held accountable, I have already shown.

How long it was, after the preliminary meeting, before the organization of the Cincinnati branch was in working order and entered upon its separate work of camp inspection and hospital-supply distribution at certain accessible points within the field of war, does not clearly appear from any papers in my possession. It is morally certain that it was not till after the "Report of Operations of the Sanitary Commission in the Valley of the Mississippi during the months of August, September, and October" had been placed in the hands of the members. Now, this report, besides the table of the relief operations under Dr. Prentice in that part of the valley, occupied by our troops in force, nearest Cincinnati, contains on every page evidence of the thoroughness with which the wants of the hospitals were explored by the Inspectors of the Commission, the promptness and clearness with which Dr. Newberry was informed of them, and of the zeal and energy, labor and pains-taking of that gentleman in obtaining, forwarding and distributing supplies to meet these wants by the hands of these agents and their assistants.

Presuming, of course, that the report of the Cincinnati Committee is not intended for mere special pleading, but to honestly express the convictions of its members, I think it is again established, not only that they are mistaken in supposing that the Sanitary Commission had no arrangements for

the distribution of supplies, when they entered the field, but it is also established that it was no fault of the Commission if they failed to be informed of it, before they entered upon their plan of a separate distribution. That the means of distribution were "adequate" to the occasion, it would be impossible to prove until a standard of adequacy had been established. A standard for this purpose, from which there would be no appeal, is not attainable. But even if the means of the Commission were not adequate, it still remains extremely improbable that Dr. Newberry went to Cincinnati for the purpose of asking the associate members of the Commission there to organize an entirely new system of distribution of supplies from that dépôt. It is quite certain that he was never authorized to do so. And when Dr. Newberry reported, as he did to the Commission in person, on the 5th of December, 1861, that the gentlemen who had been appointed associate members of the Commission in Cincinnati, at its last previous session, had united to relieve Dr. Mussey, in charge of the Commission's depot in that place, as the associate members in Philadelphia, at your request, had united to relieve the Messrs. Welsh, it is equally certain that no member of the Commission had the smallest suspicion that within a year, it would become a part of the duty of the Sanitary Commission to collect the means of obtaining supplies for these gentlemen, to distribute to the army in the field, by their voluntary labor in the intervals of business, or by the assistance of two hired agents, and that this, in connection with similar arrangements of other bodies, would be claimed by them not merely to be a vastly superior method to that which the Commission itself had originally undertaken, but the usual and established method of the Commission itself!\*

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\* See Resolutions of Cincinnati branch, unanimously adopted, November 13th, 1862; *ante* page 5.



Dr. Newberry states that he did not hint that any such duty was required of them, or would ever be required of them, as that of distribution, unless, as was the custom of the associate members of the Commission elsewhere, to the recruits or to the hospitals in their midst. He did not even propose to them to relieve Dr. Prentice at Lexington. He did propose to them at this time, and this we know, for it stands on record, to collect funds for the Sanitary Commission to enable it to sustain the agents by which its established method of distribution was carried on, which funds, till then, as he told them, had been wholly contributed in the East, and which funds were at that moment nearly exhausted. He did ask them to stimulate the contribution of hospital supplies to the dépôt of the Commission in their midst; and he did ask them to take measures to relieve Dr. Mussey of the burdensome charge of this dépôt.

But, would all this constitute a branch of the Sanitary Commission, with an independent treasury at Cincinnati, in the sense claimed by the Cincinnati committee or meant by the California contributors? Would not the Commissioners be justly charged with a careless administration of their trust if they had hastened to obey the evidently friendly impulse toward their Cincinnati associates, with which the somewhat ambiguous suggestion of the first California message was unquestionably received by them?

In the deliberate judgment of every member attending its late important sessions, including able jurists and grave divines, it could not be justly and truly concluded that an authorized branch of the Sanitary Commission had ever been established at Cincinnati, with an independent treasury, for the purpose of sustaining an independent system inconsistent and inharmonious with the system of the Sanitary Commission,

for distributing the gifts of the people to the sick and wounded of the Federal army. The Sanitary Commission includes within itself a system based on the commission of the President, for distribution to the army everywhere. This system, as a part of itself, the Commission, aided by the Secretary of War and the Postmaster General, had been at pains to advertise through every city, village, and neighborhood of California. The gentlemen from Cincinnati came with a claim to the Commission for a share of the contribution to the treasury of the Commission from California, based on the assertion that they were a branch of the Commission with an independent treasury, and that this branch ignored and repudiated, and had nothing to do with this system of distribution. It is surprising that the Commission did not know what to make of this, or that they hesitated to make the appropriation demanded?

But, the Cincinnati branch had been "insulted" by the Commission's General Secretary. Such, I am pained to see, was the unanimous opinion of the associates, in branch meeting assembled.

Your committee is instructed to seek an interview with them, and through your committee I hope that I may be allowed to tender, most respectfully, to the gentlemen of Cincinnati the following explanation of the circumstances and considerations which immediately led to the production of the supposed ground of offence, sincerely trusting that it may remove from their minds the belief that I can have been guilty of any intentional or real discourtesy to them.

Could the Commission's system of distribution, with its accompaniments of inspection, advice, and reporting, be completely and steadily sustained, with confident su-

pervision and energy, in all parts of the field of war, by capable and faithful men, well instructed and trained, and held to a strict accountability, I believe that no Commissioner now doubts, nor do I believe there is a well-informed officer of the army who now doubts that it would be, to the end of the war, and not only in this, but in all wars, a humane and economical arrangement, not embarrassing, but augmenting the force and efficiency of the army, in its work of punishing the enemies of the law of the land.

What is in the way of this good thing?

The grand difficulty heretofore experienced has been the uncertainty of being able to maintain as large a number of suitable agents in the field as would be necessary to fully carry it out, and of being able to hold so large a number to such effective accountability as, in sending them to positions of close observation of the army, in all situations, the Commission is bound to require: the California donations gave it the means of overcoming this difficulty, for a certain period at least.

A second difficulty has threatened the integrity of the system, from the inadequate or uncertain rate of supply of goods from the people. This admits of a simple illustration: the inspectors may be regarded as retailers of the supplementary supplies; their stocks must be replenished at intervals, and irregularly, according to the demand arising from battles and sickness, in their respective ranges of observation. For this purpose they call upon the Secretaries of the Commission. The Secretaries must meet these calls as the wholesale merchant meets the orders of the retailers. They may come from many at once, and for all sorts of stores at once. The Secretaries, then, to enable them to carry on the busi-

ness with regularity and system, must have large and well assorted stocks in reserve.

Suppose, for example, that our fleets should next month open the Mississippi, from Memphis to New Orleans; our inspector at New Orleans informs us that his stores are very low; that sickness is increasing, and that an expedition is preparing to move upon the enemy in Alabama, and urges that large supplies of certain articles should be sent him as soon as possible. If goods have been sent forward to the army as fast as they could be gathered, it will be impossible to meet this call, and the sick and wounded in the army of the southwest will be deprived of that to which they are justly entitled, and which it is the Commission's special charge from the President to secure to them.

It is the duty of the Commission, then, to provide in some measure for calls of this kind, by keeping stocks at its different dépôts of supply, or wholesale stores, to any one of which, most convenient, New York, Boston, or Philadelphia, Memphis, Louisville, or Cincinnati, resort can be had, with confidence that any moderate order will be met without delay.

The necessity of establishing dépôts at different points being thus evident, it will also be seen that they cannot safely be placed in close proximity to actual operations of war. It is better, then, that they be placed, as far as convenient, in loyal commercial towns, from which communication is readily had with the different departments of the army.

At such points, the responsibility of the Commission for the discretion of its agents with reference to military operations, amounts to nothing. It is chiefly necessary that goods should be accumulated, assorted, and packed, and held ready for shipment; that the central distributing agents of the



Commission should be informed, at frequent intervals, of the stock on hand, and that their orders upon it should be promptly met. These will be laborious duties. If the associate members, or members of local societies, are disposed to undertake them they will, in so doing, contribute most valuable aid to the purpose of the Commission, and such aid must be gratefully accepted.

Reserve dépôts of the Commission have been maintained at Washington and Louisville under direct management, and at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, under the management of local auxiliaries. The latter were intended to be dépôts of collection as well as of reserve. Dépôts solely for collection have been intended to be maintained at Providence, New Haven, Newark, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, and Chicago, each in charge of a local association, which should provide for all the labor and expense of collecting, packing, and freighting to any point designated by the Secretaries of the Commission, such goods as should be collected.

These intentions had been mainly, though not precisely realized before the California donations were received. The business of the Commission at some of its dépôts had been admirably transacted; others had failed in rendering clear and punctual accounts, and there was a want of uniformity in their methods which caused unnecessary embarrassments, and labor of correspondence in the offices of the Secretaries of the Commission. In fact, no uniform system had ever been distinctly established in the dealings of the Commission with the societies managing its dépôts. I considered an improvement in the affairs of the Commission in this direction, practicable. It was a question with me how it should be brought about, but the question, how

the supply should be made larger, or rather, the current of supply steadier and the reserves increased, was one of much greater, and more immediately pressing, importance.

A lamentably deficient stock for ordinary distribution, after certain recent emergencies, had led me to carefully study the prospect of being able to command a sufficient rate of supply to justify a further enlargement of the arrangements for distribution, such as the California donation would otherwise have justified. In fact, I considered that a large accumulation of supplies under direct, central control was absolutely necessary to any equitable arrangement for distribution to the whole army. My first duty, then, after I was informed of this donation, was to make certain, if possible, of a sufficiently large accumulation. What was the difficulty in securing this?

I was satisfied that it was not any want of liberality with the people. I was satisfied that enough was given already were it judicially directed.

Why was it not judiciously directed?

It appeared to me that it was chiefly because of representations made by individuals and other organizations, whose observation was local only, and who, generally with a good purpose, set forth the wants of a comparatively small number of the sick and wounded of whom they were personally cognizant, or thought they were, and who appealed for the means of relieving them to considerations of State and local pride, sympathy, and jealousy.

More than half of all the seriously wounded, and not permanently disabled and set-aside men of the whole army of the United States were at this time in the hospitals of Washington and its vicinity, and there were more than a dozen organizations, with several hundred

men and women belonging to them, each operating independently of the other, for the relief of the patients in these hospitals. They did not act in concert; they did not act under any common system; as a rule they paid no respect to the responsibilities of the surgeons; they were, for the most part, rather inclined to look upon the surgeons unkindly and suspiciously. It did not enter into their purposes to so give their aid to the hospitals as not to encourage the surgeon in neglecting to make timely and sufficient provisions for his patients through the government channels of supply. Yet this assistance was not regular, and a hospital was liable to receive from them ten times as much aid in one day as it had received the previous day, and this without any request for it by the surgeon; and when, the same day, other hospitals, where these goods would have been more desirable, received none. These facts had been all established and strongly impressed upon me by the statements of the surgeons, made at meetings preliminary to the organization of the Army Medical Society, at the Commission's rooms, in Washington.

A hearty convalescent patient had been known to receive six pairs of socks in one day, from as many different visitors, and this at the very time that some thousand severely wounded men lay sixty miles distant, bare-footed or nearly so, and we were purchasing, with the very last dollar in our treasury, socks for them, in Washington, because the supply contributed to our dépôts was exhausted, and the emergency was extreme. This is a literal fact. There were men, as there probably are still, who made it a business to buy from soldiers the articles thus inconsiderately given them at the expense of the well intended bounty of the loyal women of the land, and I was able to get possession of a large case of

goods thus obtained which the industrious collector was about to ship to the North for sale.

While this was the case in the hospitals of the District of Columbia, hundreds of visitors, each corresponding directly or indirectly with the liberal givers far away in all parts of the country, each having his or her particular tale of suffering, personally witnessed, wherewith to point an appeal for immediate, direct assistance in the work of relief—while this was the case with the hospitals of the District—in the hospitals of the department of North Carolina, there was at the same time but one agency through which relief, supplementary to that which government furnished, could be conveyed to the suffering, and that agency was the Sanitary Commission, which equally regards the soldiers of the Union, be they in North Carolina or Washington, New Orleans or Nashville.

Again, I knew that some northern villages were sending all their offerings of relief to a certain chaplain, because he was before the war the pastor of one of their churches, and the people knew they could depend on his using the goods, if they should ever reach him, for the benefit of the men who had volunteered from that village. It is true, that he would do so, and he would truly write to the donors afterwards, that the goods had been thankfully received by the boys. He would not tell them—for that would be the concern of another chaplain less fortunate in a clientage of benefaction, and, perhaps, less humane or industrious—that in another regiment of the same brigade, fighting the same enemy, for the same good cause—fighting their battles equally with their own regiment—the men had been in far greater want of the things they had sent, and that they could expect them but from one source—the dépôts of the Sanitary Commission—that when this resource failed they had none other.



The daily experience of almost every Inspector or relief agent of the Commission, in the field, established the general fact thus illustrated, at a time when our storehouses were nearly empty, and the calls upon them were urgent. I knew that the surgeon of one favored regiment requested his friends at home to refrain from sending further supplies, as the regiment suffered in health from the excessive quantity of certain articles of luxury which the men received as presents, and they were unable to march, from the weight of clothing and "good things" which had been sent them, and which they were unwilling to throw away. I knew that some hospitals in the same division were, at the same time, poorly provided, and that from the county in which this regiment had been recruited the Sanitary Commission had never received a case of goods, nor a dollar in money.

I knew that there were many societies acting carefully, discriminatingly, methodically, within the limited field of operations to which they devoted themselves, but, I also knew, that even in Washington, the aid furnished by hospital visitors was so indiscreetly rendered, on an average, that it was not uncommon to hear surgeons declare that, on the whole, it did their patients more harm than good.

It was, then, perfectly obvious to me, that much of the voluntary supplies of the people for the sick and wounded soldiers were really wasted, and that a much larger part failed to be expended when and where it was most needed. It was equally obvious to me, that this was not the case with any part of the supplies directly and fully controlled by the Sanitary Commission.

What, then, was my duty as the responsible executive officer of the Commission?

Was it not, in the first place, to put the claims of the federal system of assistance to the soldiers of the Union more distinctly before the people at home? to ask the people at home to forego the gratification of their local, State, county, or sectional interests in what they were ready to do for the army; to say to them, "you have offered the lives of your sons and your brothers to the Union, make now the offering complete—do not give of your substance to comfort your sons and brothers alone, give to comfort the soldiers of the Union, to all who need, most to those who need most, wherever they are, whether you know them or not. Give, trusting us that your gifts shall be well used, as they should be used by the President of all the States, fraternally, fairly, equitably."

It seemed to me that we had hitherto gone to the people too much on the grounds that others had done—that any one else might have done. The wants and dangers of this or that army, of this or that regiment, had been too often urged by our associates as the ground of a claim for contributions to our stores. This had been, I was aware, more the case at the West than at the East. At the East, from the outset, it had been well understood by all, that all goods contributed to our branch dépôts came to a common fund as money to our treasury, and the contributions of towns or States, in fruit or flannel, were no more known after it had been contributed, as the contribution of that town or State than its particular dollars or dimes were known in our treasury. I mean, that we accounted for it in particular no more. They were the Sanitary Commission's goods which we distributed—goods given by the people of the United States to the sick soldiers of the United States, and the goods we distributed at Port Royal and New

Orleans was just as much contributed by citizens of the United States in Indiana as by those in New York, for all that was commonly said of it. That the people of Pennsylvania or New York were more interested in what he did than those of Ohio or Illinois, never entered the head of an Inspector on the Atlantic columns or in the Atlantic hospitals. Yet, it seemed to me, that we had not presented our federal claim as we should, even at the East. That we had not asked the people to disregard local and personal interests, and to remember only the army of the Union, as we should. Had we done so; had it been known and appreciated that we differed in this from others—aside from all other claims—it seemed to me that they would gladly have sent to our dépôts much of that which I knew had been in great part wasted through injudicious distribution. Under this conviction, I sent a gentleman who had been engaged in our relief service, to visit some of the eastern fields of supply, with instructions to put the following alternative fairly and distinctly before the people:

“You can, if you please, send all your contributions to some special agency, to be delivered at some designated point where you can know exactly how, and to whom, they will have been given. You can, on the other hand, entrust all, or a part, of them, if you prefer, to us, not knowing and never expecting to know where what you give us is to go, or whom it is to benefit; only knowing that we, the Commissioners of the President of the United States, watch the soldiers of the United States everywhere; and that it is our duty equally to aid all wherever we find any needing aid; and that for this we are responsible to the President. Which do you prefer?”

The immediate result of this mission, I am happy to say,

has been most unexpectedly gratifying and encouraging, so much so that it is probable that our rate of steady supply from the districts visited by this gentlemen will be more than doubled.

I determined at the same time, to ask a council of women, drawn from the active managers of our largest auxiliaries, to meet me at Washington, from whom I could obtain advice as to the probability of an increased continuous rate of supply, as one of the necessary bases of a general enlargement of the executive operations of the Commission, and upon whom I could urge the advisability of spreading a knowledge of the claims of the Commission, as a federal body, upon the liberality of the people. I had intended at the same time, to present a scheme for a uniform, and a more exact, <sup>\*</sup>accountability to the branches, or societies having charge of dépôts, and as a part of the general enlargement and improvement of the organization for executive duty. I contemplated at the same time, procuring from the Inspectors more exact and complete reports of their distributions, and other work of relief; and the issue of frequent bulletins, made up in great part from these reports. An examination of the documents enclosed (marked F. F. and G. G.) will disclose the various measures taken to carry out the general scheme of improvement which I had at this time in contemplation.

The circular entitled: "*What they have to do who stay at Home,*" so strongly objected to by the Cincinnati committee, was drawn up under the impulse of the same reflections, and was intended to serve the same general intentions. It consists of two distinct parts; the second being, however, in the nature of a note or postscript to the first.

The first is an appeal for an improved organization of



those who stay at home, to the end of obtaining a more secure supply, to the distributing dépôts of the Commission, urged by a presentation of the essential rightness, justice, and beauty of its federal or fraternal purpose, in distinction from any merely local or sectional purpose of benevolence. It concludes with the following fervent exhortation, and the subjoined memorandum:

“Hence the necessity for a carefully guarded yet elastic system of distribution, resting upon large accumulations of supplies. Such accumulations cannot be obtained, except the people shall be generally willing to forego the gratification of those impulses which allow personal and sectional feeling to narrow and determine the channels of beneficence and patriotism.”

“In view of the immensely increased worth, in the absolute saving of the lives of our soldiers, which the system of the Commission has given to the benefactions of the people, as demonstrated at Antietam, at South Mountain, at Manassas, at Cedar Mountain, at Winchester, at Malvern, at Seven Pines, at West Point, at Williamsburgh, at Corinth, at Shiloh, at Fort Donelson, at New Orleans, at Roanoke Island, at Newbern, and at Port Royal; in view of the obvious fact that such articles as are most needed are becoming more scarce and valuable; in view of the large force now taking the field; and in view of the sterner spirit with which the people now plainly demand that the war should be conducted, it is hoped that all good men and women who are not privileged to take a more active part, will lay hold here, and try to have this business henceforth put, everywhere, fairly and squarely on the same ground as that of the cause itself for which we are struggling. In union is strength. In disunion is weakness and waste. Can we not, in this trial of our nation, learn to wholly lay aside that poor disguise of narrowness of purpose and self-conceit, which takes the name of local interest and public spirit, but whose fruit is manifest in secession? Distrust of generous policies, and want of faith in principles, with an indolent dependence on leaders and parties, have been the national sins of which this war brings the plain and direct retribution. God grant us grace to turn from them. Let us remember that, while we are called to lay our household offerings upon the bloody

altar of the war, we are also called to bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

"The plan of the Relief Service of the Sanitary Commission, is"—

1. "To secure, as far as practicable, reserves of hospital and ambulance supplies, in order to be prepared to act with efficiency in emergencies."

2. "To cover in its work, as far as practicable, the whole field of the war, dispensing supplies wherever most needed. to all in the service of the Union, without preference of State, arm, or rank, army or navy, volunteer or regular."

3. "To study the whole field, by means of carefully selected and trained medical Inspectors, in order to determine where supplies are most needed, and to watch against their misuse."

4. "While administering to all pressing needs of the suffering, to carefully avoid relieving the officials in charge in any unnecessary degree from their responsibility, but to do all that is possible to secure his full rights to the soldier, unable to help himself."

5. "To cordially co-operate, as far as practicable, with the hospital service of the Government, endeavoring to supplement, never to supplant it."

"Societies, churches, schools, and all other organizations, the members of which cherish the principles upon which this plan is founded, are cordially invited to avail themselves of it in any action which they may see fit to take for the benefit of the sick and wounded."

1st. "Contributing Aid Societies will send supplies when they see fit, through the channels established by the Commission."

2d. "Corresponding Aid Societies must be devoted to the collection and preparation of supplies, to be sent to the soldier exclusively through the Commission."

3d. "Branch Aid Societies are chartered by the Commission, to be established at points suitable for obtaining supplies, intended for distribution by the system of the Commission, from States or large districts. They must be responsible for the necessary labor and expenses of this duty, and must account exactly and punctually to those from whom supplies are received, and to the Commission."

"As the Commission are trustees for the judicious distribution of the gifts of the people to the soldiers, the Branches are intermediate trustees for collecting, assorting, packing,

storing, and forwarding gifts. In emergencies, the Branch Societies are often called upon to assist the Commission, even more directly, in the performance of its duties."

"Branches and Corresponding Societies will be supplied with the bulletins and all other publications of the Commission as soon as issued."

"Commissioners under appointment from the President of the United States: The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D.; Prof. A. D. Bache, LL. D.; Gen. George W. Cullum, U. S. A.; Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A.; Robert C. Wood, M. D., U. S. A.; William H. Van Buren, M. D.; Wolcott Gibbs, M. D.; Samuel G. Howe, M. D.; Cornelius R. Agnew, M. D.; Elisha Harris, M. D.; J. S. Newberry, M. D.; George T. Strong; Horace Binney, Jr.; the Right Rev. Thos. M. Clark, D. D.; the Hon. Joseph Holt; the Hon. R. W. Burnett; the Hon. Mark Skinner; Frederick Law Olmsted."

"For further information, apply to"

"FRED. LAW OLMSTED,"

"General Secretary."

"WASHINGTON, October 21st, 1862."

The Cincinnati committee accuse me personally, not only of an insulting suggestion toward all the associate members of the Commission, but of an attempt, in the words above quoted, to establish an *ex post facto* plan, by which the Sanitary Commission may seem to have undertaken to be directly responsible for the distribution of goods contributed to its dépôts by the people, and in this way to impose upon the people of California, with a fictitious claim, or, in their own words, "a pretext" that the Commission is able of itself to expend the funds entrusted to it judiciously toward the relief of the sick and wounded of the army of the Union, and they propose, that unless the Commission promptly repudiates the claim made by "its General Secretary," that its associates in Cincinnati shall withdraw their countenance from it, and form an alliance with an institution, the object and aim of which is highly laudable, but which is as different from that of the Sanitary Commission as the duties of the Governor of

Missouri are different from those of the President of the United States. If it had been desired to prove that the Cincinnati branch in maintaining the claim of this report, thereby established itself no true branch of the Sanitary Commission of the United States army, this readiness to entertain the purpose of distinctly limiting its field of view to that of the Western Sanitary Commission would have been more timely than it was under the circumstances. For if the committee had really any substantial ground for their suspicion of a trick in behalf of the Commission, so contemptible, intellectually and morally, that it would have disgraced the meanest pettifogger hired to help a swindler to get the better of the law, I cannot conceive that any one who knows them can be in doubt what course would have been taken by the men whose honorable names were appended to the circular, the moment it came to their knowledge. And the manner in which the circular had actually been received by members of the Commission, before the Cincinnati committee had taken action upon it, affords conclusive evidence that it presented no new or unauthorized view of the relation of the Commission to its associates or its branches.

I had issued the circular in a letter-form edition of five thousand, from the central office, on my own responsibility, without consulting any member of the Commission, unless it was Professor Bache, who is a resident of Washington, on the 21st October, just one month after the first donation from California had been announced to us.

When read by the executive committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Bellows, Prof. Gibbs, Dr. Van Buren, Dr. Agnew, and Mr. Geo. T. Strong, at their meeting in New York, so far from repudiating it, and at once suspending its author from duty, as they unquestionably would have done, had



they taken the Cincinnati view of it, a special vote of approval was passed, and a new edition ordered to be printed in pamphlet form of ten thousand copies, of which five thousand were directed to be sent to California. This was before the question of assigning a portion of the California donation to the control of the Cincinnati associates had been discussed in the committee, and before the first letter from Judge Hoadly advising Dr. Bellows of the expectations of the Cincinnati associates had been received.

I cannot suppose that to any mind which has not a strong bias of inclination against a fair conclusion upon the question, this will not be conclusive, confirmed as it has since been by a unanimous vote of the Commission in session.

To remove any possibility of a lingering doubt, however, as to how the views which have been announced by the Cincinnati associates through their committee, since the California contribution to its treasury have excited public attention, would have been received by the Commission, had it been made aware of them long before that occurrence, I will conclude this report with a copy of a paper written more than six months before those contributions were heard of. This paper was manifolded, and copies have been sent on several occasions as an answer to inquirers about the relations sustained by the branches to the Commission. Copies were sent at the time it was written to Judge Skinner, President of the Chicago branch; to Dr. Bellows, the President of the Commission, and to Dr. Newberry, the Western Secretary, who acknowledged its receipt and expressed his satisfaction with the ground taken. At the subsequent meeting of the Board—the same which was attended by the five members of the Cincinnati branch, as well as by Mr. Blatchford, Secretary of the Chicago branch—I read the letter as an appen-

dix to my general report, before the Commission, when it was informally approved, and the suggestion made that it should be printed, which, however, I then deemed to be unnecessary, presuming that all concerned were now sufficiently well informed of the general scope of duties undertaken by the Commission, and of the part in those duties which the branches had been organized to fulfil.

WASHINGTON, *February 6th*, 1862.

TO THE REV. GEO. F. MAGOON,  
*Secretary, Iowa Army Sanitary Commission:*

SIR:—I yesterday received your favor of January 28th, in which you suggest that a connection should be formed between your association and the Sanitary Commission. You do not state the object to be gained by the connection, nor indicate any advantage which would arise from it. As there will be sufficient time for letters to be exchanged between us before the next meeting of the Commission, at which it will give me pleasure to propose any plan of connection which you may think desirable, I should be glad to hear further from you on this point.

You will excuse me for reminding you of a few circumstances which must influence the Commission in whatever action it may conclude to take.

Our loyal fellow countrymen in Tennessee are suffering persecution, their crops and cattle have been taken for the support of the rebel hordes, their houses burned, their stores plundered. Sick and weary, thousands hide in the mountains, biding their time. How they support life, God knows. They certainly have nothing to spare, and though many have broken through the defensive lines of the enemy, if they had to spare it would not be possible to send their goods where they are more wanted than they are at this moment in Tennessee.

But of those who have escaped, the strong and healthy men to the number of two or three thousand, are fighting our battles side by side with your Iowan heroes [in Kentucky.] Those who are not strong and well, fill the homes of our noble and hard tried brethren of "the dark and bloody

ground," and the latter have enough to do to provide for their own necessities.

Virginia, in like manner ravaged by war, has furnished seven thousand men to fight the battles of our common country.

This Commission received the other day seventeen thousand dollars in hard cash, collected in one of the States of New England. It has received in two months in hospital stores, from the same State, sufficient supplies for ten times as many men as that State has sent to the field. The troops of Iowa and Virginia and of Tennessee have received within two months, at least as great advantages from those contributions as those of that State.

Do you wish Iowa troops to be dependent on the contributions of New England? On the other hand, do you wish to spurn for Iowan Volunteers the patriotic offerings of New England? Would you at such a time as this say to New England: "Mind your own business;" would you say to Virginia and Tennessee, "Take care of your own sick folk, and we will take care of ours?"

Suppose that in the next battle in Kentucky the brunt should be borne by Iowans, and some thousand of them should be thrown on the surgeon's hands—do you wish that the surgeons should refuse all assistance for them until it can be sent from Iowa? Would you be unwilling that they should be dependent, for a time, on the provision for such an emergency to which the women of New England have contributed so liberally? Whether you would or not, they will be so dependent: they have been so dependent; and at this moment some of your Iowan sick, I do not doubt, rest on beds sent from New England, and their strength is sustained by wine sent from New York.

This being so, are you willing that when, in the next battle in Virginia, the husbands and fathers and sons and brothers of the women of New England are brought low, Iowa shall have contributed nothing (except in the form of a tax) by which their lives also can be cherished?

Of course I do not ask these questions reproachfully; upon their answer, seems to me, to depend the answer which should be made to your proposal. In the work of this Commission no State is known; all contributions to it are to a common stock, for the army of a common country. It has received, as it appears, by far the most from those States for whose men it has done least. Whether aided by Iowa or



not, it will be as ready to aid Iowa as to aid New York, New England, Ohio, or Tennessee.

You may ask how far it has done so? I do not know, because I have never thought of asking how far it has aided one or another. I know that its agents, under their orders, can never regard one and disregard another.

To be more explicit, however, I will give the outlines of the arrangements of the Commission for collecting and supplying hospital stores.

Dépôts for hospital supplies are established at different points, with reference to accessibility for different columns of the army. Four of these are at the four largest seaports; one at Washington, for the army of the Potomac; one at Wheeling, for Western Virginia and Kentucky; one at Louisville; one at Cairo, and one at St. Louis, for the column operating in the Mississippi Valley and Missouri. Another will probably be established soon further West. There is also one at Port Royal; one at the Tortugas, and one at Ship Island. At each of these dépôts it is intended to keep a stock of hospital goods in reserve. A further reserve is also usually maintained at Cleveland, intermediate between those of the East and West, and which is intended to be drawn upon both from the East and West, upon occasion.

There are three associate Secretaries of the Commission, one of whom is responsible that the goods given in charge to the Commission are distributed, as far as possible, to those most in need of them on the Atlantic. The second is in like manner responsible for the necessary distribution to the armies between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi; the third for those west of the Mississippi. The duty of the latter is, however, complicated and embarrassed somewhat, by the existence of a Commission organized by General Fremont, which has undertaken to do the same work in the same field, believing that it can do so harmoniously without being in subordination to the same rules. The national Commission has thought best, while it regards the arrangement as a bad one, to yield to the wishes of the excellent men at St. Louis, who, under official sanction, have established a local institution, which they are, perhaps, naturally indisposed to make merely auxiliary to the national system. This local institution, however, while it has an independent dépôt and makes independent collections therefor, and exercises duties other than those undertaken by the Commission, is perfectly



national and catholic in its purpose. Although its members all live in St. Louis, it takes thought as much for the sick Illinoisian or Ohioan, as for the sick St. Louisian or Missourian. It can, therefore, work harmoniously with the Commission. The Commission is, however, obliged, in order to carry out its plan completely, to maintain an independent dépôt at St. Louis, free of any local control, and always ready, like that in New York, Cleveland, or Washington, to serve any demands of the sick and wounded of the army or navy, wherever they may arise. At any of these dépôts contributions are received from the various societies of patriotic women throughout the land, counting by hundreds in every State East of Iowa and North of Kentucky, and including some in Kentucky as well. It is not known, and it never will be known, how much the women of one State have given, and how little those of another. All who contribute, contribute freely, according to their means, to a common stock. The advantage of this common stock thus divided, is almost daily illustrated. For instance:

A considerable force has been recently massed and placed in movement in the mountain region of Virginia, west of the field previously occupied by the army of the Potomac, and east of that occupied by the army of Western Virginia. Owing to the difficulty of transportation, this force was without tents, and being obliged to bivouac in bad weather at midwinter in a highland region, a large sick-list was rapidly formed. An Inspector of the Commission had been sent a week ago to look after it, but it was not until the day before yesterday, that information of its wants was received by the associate Secretary of the Commission for the army of the Potomac, to which the column was subordinate. To send goods to the position in question from Washington, or any of the Eastern dépôts, it would have been necessary to move them several days journey by wagon, and with considerable hazard. A supply of hospital stores for a thousand patients was consequently ordered by telegraph from Wheeling, whence, although needed by the army of the Potomac, it was sent by railroad at least sixty miles nearer to the point of demand, than it could have been by any railroad from the East. At the same time the agent at Wheeling was advised by telegraph, that if his supply ran short, it could immediately be replenished from Cleveland, and those in charge of the dépôt at Cleveland were advised that although the dépôts at New York and Philadelphia had been drawn low to supply

naval expeditions, a considerable reserve existed at Boston, upon which, if they were not amply provided for all possible demands from Kentucky and Missouri, they should immediately make requisition. This, however, was found to be unnecessary, the industry of the women of Michigan, Western New York and Ohio, having at this time supplied a very large accumulation at Cleveland.

There has been no time to my knowledge during the last six months when any demand made upon any one of the dépôts of the Commission has failed to be met, and yet the Commission has been, during all that time, giving out to hospitals nearly two thousand articles of clothing every day, and no surgeon has allowed a want of hospital clothing in his regiment to become known to the Commission or to any of its twenty camp inspectors, or other agents, that a supply has not been immediately placed at his disposal. Since our dépôts were fairly established at Cleveland, Wheeling, Cairo, and St. Louis, I am not aware that any demand upon any one of them has failed to be met at once. Nevertheless, urgent appeals have frequently been made by ignorant persons to New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, for goods immediately needed for a regimental hospital within fifty or a hundred miles of those dépôts, and many tons of freight have been conveyed unnecessarily and at great cost from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, in answer to such appeals.

The Commission cannot engage that its dépôts always will be fully supplied, it cannot engage that all proper demands upon it shall be met. This will depend upon what is supplied to it. It can engage, having better means of information than any organization of a local character, or any not in immediate connection with the War Department, can have, that what it receives shall, as far as possible, be so distributed as to be of the greatest good to the greatest number of soldiers of the Union, come whence they may, go where they may.

At each dépôt where goods are received to a considerable amount by direct contribution, there are local organizations auxiliary to the Commission, composed of its associate members and other men, with a body of women and young people, who undertake the onerous labor and expense of opening, assorting, packing and accounting for goods, and of the necessary correspondence. These auxiliary organizations also frequently purchase articles needed

by the sick, which they fail to receive as contributions in kind, in sufficient quantity. They pay the local rents, &c. A large working staff is constantly required and is maintained for these purposes. An expenditure of many thousand dollars, in each case, has thus been saved the treasury of the Commission.

There are many hundred sub-dépôts maintained in the same manner, again auxiliary to these, no one of which, however, is expected to be constantly ready to meet a sudden demand, as is the case with the regular directly auxiliary dépôts of the Commission, among which, besides those already named, there is a very important one at Chicago, for the State of Illinois; another at Cincinnati, for southern Ohio, &c.

If the good people of Iowa believe that they can best serve the common cause by directing their energies exclusively to the supply of their own neighbors and relatives gone to the war, it is no part of my duty, nor am I disposed to argue against that conviction. At the same time, I cannot conceal that my own judgment is led to a different conclusion, and it is within my duty to fully explain and justify the plan of the organization I represent, which plan would certainly fail if none should take a different view of their duty, from that which I find indicated in your letters and publications. There seems to me to be a stain of the very soil, out of which the monster SECESSION has grown, when such a complete machinery as you have formed in Iowa is confined in its operations by State lines.

But, if you contribute to the common stock, it may be asked, what assurance will you have that Iowans will not be neglected? I might ask, in reply, what assurance has Massachusetts, New York, or Ohio? But a better answer is found in the fact, that no surgeon from Iowa, or anywhere else, has, for months past, asked for a single article which it was not in his power to get, as a right, directly from a Government source, that it has not been supplied to the full extent of the entire resources of the Commission, and as soon as possible.

That the Iowa hospital have, nevertheless, wanted much is to be accounted for—

1st. By the constant movements and frequent changes in the plan of the campaign in Missouri, which, for a time, rendered all attempts at systematic supply abortive.

2d. The failure of the arrangements instituted under Gen-



eral Fremont to relieve the national Commission of duty in Missouri, it having been understood that these would render unnecessary if not impertinent any undertaking on its part to provide systematically for the wants of the forces within the field of the St. Louis organization.

3d. The neglect of the surgeons to call upon the Commission; excusable when it is considered what a variety of sources they are invited to resort to for the same articles—as for instance, first, the Government stores; second, the Sanitary Commission; third, the St. Louis Sanitary Commission; fourth, the Iowa Army Sanitary Commission; fifth, various village Sanitary Commissions, which, as I observe by your report, supply directly as well as through your State organization; sixth, eastern local societies; seventh, church societies, &c., in St. Louis; eighth, individual benevolence.

I am advised that an impression prevails with you, that our organization has chiefly confined its operations to the East. On the contrary, the very first action of the Commission after its complete organization, before it looked at the army in Maryland, was to send its president, along with a special resident western secretary, to look after the troops then beginning to concentrate in Illinois and Missouri. The first Iowa volunteers were visited by the President of the Commission and Dr. Newbery, in June last, and before the Commission had met in Washington, except in part, for the purpose of organizing.

You observe in your own report, of a visit to the hospitals at Mound city, on the Mississippi, the largest military hospital in the United States—

*“The surgeons assured us that they could not possibly carry it on, but for the Sanitary Commission. Said one, ‘You will find a hundred articles here from the Sanitary Commission where you will find one from the Government.’”*

By reference to our report of operations in the West, for the three months ending 30th November, you will see that these supplies were from our dépôts at New York and Cleveland, and that at that time upwards of 90,000 articles had been sent from our Cleveland dépôt alone, to Western hospitals; and in the first report of the Chicago branch of the Commission, p. 4, you will find reference to repeated visits of the “members of the U. S. Sanitary Commission” to the camps and hospitals at and near Cairo.

The meetings of the Commission are held at Washington, because Washington is the headquarters of the army, and



the seat of Government, with whom it is a part of the duty of the Commission to constantly advise. A majority of the members of its central board reside in the East, because it is necessary that they should be frequently and quickly assembled. For the same reason its central office is established at Washington.

If the army of the Potomac has been better supplied than that of Wisconsin, it is because the former has been closely concentrated and at rest. Systematic provision for it has, therefore, been more practicable. But precisely the same machinery of supply has been extended throughout the West. And as soon as it became apparent that the Commission should re-assume the duty of providing for the forces in Missouri, one of its Secretaries, familiar with all the details of its operations in Maryland, was sent to reside in Missouri, and all the resources of the Commission placed at his command. Obviously, however, if other organizations undertake the supply of the hospitals in Missouri, obtaining their supplies from the neighboring sources, our Secretary for Missouri must either enter into a competition with them for these supplies, or obtain supplies at greater and unnecessary cost from other sources, which he can have no certainty will be required.

The explanation I have thus given of the existing arrangements of the Commission will, I trust, enable you the more readily and definitely to determine in what manner your very efficient State organization can be honorably and advantageously brought into connection with it.

The Commission will probably meet at Washington about the 21st inst.

Reciprocating your assurance of sympathy in the cause and the work,

I am, &c.

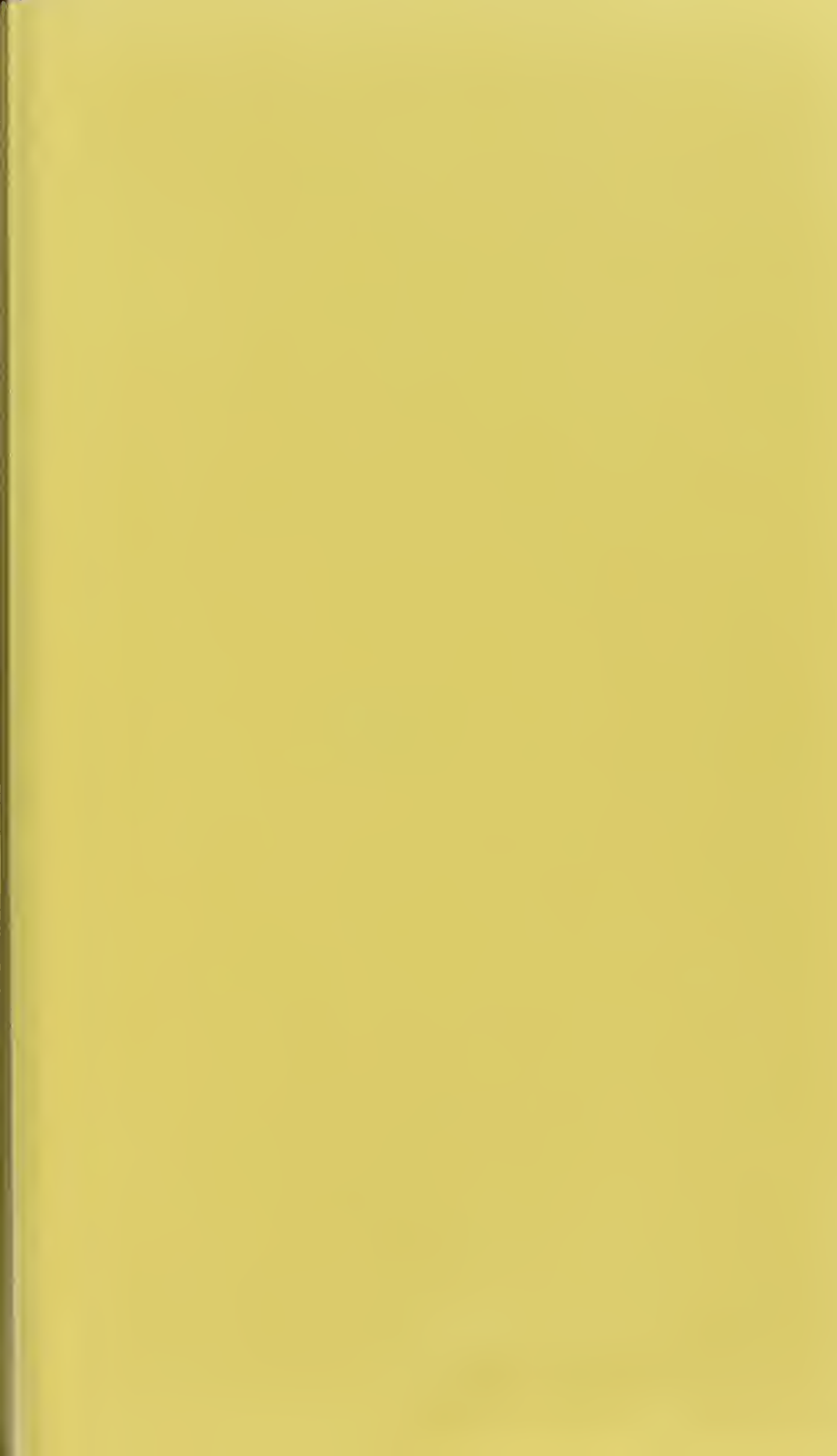
The above letter, written nearly a year ago, embraces essentially the same ideas which characterize the recent circular, "What they have to do who stay at home." I am confident that, could the inmost record of my desires and of my actions be clearly read, they would bear testimony to a deep and unremitting purpose, existing in my mind from the day I assumed the office I have the privilege of holding to

establish and maintain, with all my might, the best methods by which the common sympathies of this people could be brought to bear most effectively for good, and with the least danger of mischief, upon the work of relieving the common suffering of all parts of its common army fighting for its common cause. Such a purpose is wholly incompatible with any disrespectful intention toward the associate members of the Sanitary Commission, in whose service, as well as that of the members of the Commission,

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*General Secretary.*







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